



# Summary of 2002 USDA Data Users Meeting



October 21, 2002  
Chicago, Illinois

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250



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## 2002 USDA Data Users Meeting

October 21, 2002

Holiday Inn Mart Plaza

### Agenda

12:00 p.m. Registration/Demonstrations

1:00 Introduction and Overview

*Fred Vogel*

*National Agricultural Statistics Service*

1:10 Agency reviews

*Weldon Hall*

*Agricultural Marketing Service*

*Venita Powell*

*Census Bureau - Foreign Trade Division*

*Joy Harwood*

*Economic Research Service*

*Randy Zeitner*

*Foreign Agriculture Service*

*Steve Wiyatt*

*National Agricultural Statistics Service*

*Brad Rippey*

*WAOB - Meteorologist*

*Gerald Bange*

*World Agricultural Outlook Board*

2:00 Open forum for questions and comments from participants

3:15 Break

3:30 Brazil Presentation - Robert Tetrault (FAS)

"Brazil: Forecasting the Unknown"

3:45 Open forum continued

5:00 Concluding comments

5:00 - 6:00 Special Session

"Review of NASS and WAOB Forecasting and Estimation Methodology"





## AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE 2002

The Agricultural Marketing Service includes six commodity divisions--Cotton, Dairy, Fruit and Vegetable, Livestock and Seed, Poultry, and Tobacco. The divisions employ specialists who provide standardization, grading and market news services for those commodities. They enforce such Federal Laws as the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act and the Federal Seed Act.

AMS commodity divisions also oversee marketing agreements and orders, administer research and promotion programs, and purchase commodities for Federal food programs.

### CURRENT ISSUES OF INTEREST

#### MANDATORY PRICE REPORTING:

The Act, proposed rule, USDA press release, and comments USDA has received can be viewed over the AMS website at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/price.htm>. Several new reports have been added as well as new enhancements that ease downloading information to spreadsheets and data bases. Of major interest is the new Weekly Comprehensive Boxed beef report that provides comprehensive cutout data.

#### BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS MARKETPLACE FOR COTTON:

**The Cotton Program signed a one-year agreement in September 2001 with The Seam, an online business-to-business marketplace for cotton,** to obtain unlimited access to sales recap data (not including information identifying the buyer or the seller). The Seam is a transparent marketplace in which many of the major U.S. cotton merchants, cooperatives, and textile mills have invested. The Seam guarantees each transaction on its site. In return for access to The Seam sales data, which represents an increasing percentage of the U.S. crop, The Seam has access to USDA classing data for each bale offered for sale on its site, thereby guaranteeing that bales offered for sale carry the official USDA classing data. **This agreement was expected to enhance the establishment of spot cotton quotations; it did so to such a degree that the Cotton Program and The Seam signed an open-ended extension of the agreement in September 2002.**

#### PRICE DISCOVERY:

Last year, Poultry Market News Branch reviewed the methods in determining the value of shell eggs delivered into retail channels throughout the country. Upon completion of the review, current pricing methods were revised to reflect updates in pricing procedures used by the egg industry.

In addition to revising current pricing methods, Poultry initiated a complete revision of egg pricing schemes in an effort to offer more valuable information to the audience. Upon consulting users in

the egg industry, a regional pricing scheme was proposed. A pilot for this new pricing scheme began in August '02.. A full-scale implementation is planned beginning of January '03.

Despite changing the pricing scheme, two individual cities (New York and Chicago) will continue to be reported as they are currently. However, the 12-Metro will no longer be reported. A new National report involving the four pricing regions (NE, SE, MW and SC) will replace the 12-Metro. The report will no longer include California.

#### WEB PORTAL PROJECT:

Fruit and Vegetable Market News is currently working on a project to establish a web portal for Market News information. The portal will be a replacement of the present Market News web site and will provide customized access of Market News data. The web portal will increase functionality and user friendliness, providing a number of additional features for expanding historical data access as well as displaying current data in improved views. The portal will provide ad hoc access to data and the ability to convert searched data into various data and graphical formats for easier use in spreadsheets and other customer applications.

#### INTERNET SITE ENHANCEMENTS:

- Direct Trade Historical Livestock Market News Reports can be accessed at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/directtrade/directtrade.htm>
- International Livestock and meat reports can be accessed at [http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mncs/lst\\_int.htm](http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mncs/lst_int.htm)
- Includes Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, and Japan.
- Increased the archive capabilities of AMS Market Reports section to include more report days. This will allow industry to access a larger number of historical reports.
- Dairy Market News added a new section for International trade news, found at [www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/mncs/INTER.HTM](http://www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/mncs/INTER.HTM) ; also a new page listing daily reports release days/times, found at [www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/mncs/DMNwires.htm](http://www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/mncs/DMNwires.htm).
- The Milk Marketing Order Statistics web site was significantly expanded to include several additional data series, both the 2001 & 2002 Annual Summaries, and special reports presenting the results of periodic surveys of milk marketing information, found at [www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/mmhos.htm](http://www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/mmhos.htm) .
- An archive of PDF format Fruit and Vegetable Market Reports was added to the Market News web site. The archive consists of 47 composite reports which are regularly published to the web on a daily or weekly basis. Previously, only the latest version of each report was available on the web. Now users can select past reports, most of them dating back to 1998. The archive is accessed through the AMS search engine, which returns a link to the requested report. The website for the PDF archive is <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/mncs/fvcomp.htm>.
- **Comment Box on F&V Web site** - The Market News Branch has created a comment box for customer feedback. Market News is reorganizing the way reports are arranged on this Internet

site and will add some new Web-based services. Customer and user input or suggestions will help to ensure that users of this site can access the market information they need.

- Poultry Market News added a subscription request form for mailed reports at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/poultry/mnncs/SubscriptionForm/index.htm>
- Fruit and Vegetable enhanced the customer service center with online information that will assist industry at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/mktnews.html>
- **The Cotton Program has added the Weekly Cotton Quality Data Files to the Cotton Program's Market News website, where they can be downloaded at no cost.** The Cotton Program decided last year that it could utilize a concept similar to the National Database to offer classing data to the industry and at the same time protect grower anonymity. The Information Technology (IT) Staff created two data files containing raw classing data. They are the Weekly Cotton Quality Data Files. Each file contains the classification information for all bales classed in a given week and contains data for both Upland and Pima cotton. One file identifies each bale by Classing Office. The other file identifies each bale by State. The classing data is stripped of all gin code and gin bale identification and cannot be traced back to individual gins or growers. Two new files are created each week. Users can accumulate season-to-date classings by downloading each week's data files.

#### CHANGES TO AMS REPORTS AND NEW REPORTS:

##### NEW:

##### Cotton:

- The Cotton Program revised all Market News reports containing Pima quotations and quality measurements. These modifications reflected changes to Pima classification effective with the 2001 crop year. Other reports were modified to enhance presentation of information pertaining to government programs (LDP, AWP, Pima Competitiveness Payment, etc.). All reports of strength premiums and discounts were revised to mirror CCC loan strength categories.
- Extensive software changes were made to facilitate and streamline the collection and reporting of data for the annual Variety Survey and the annual Carryover report. These changes dramatically reduced Classing Office labor in tabulating Carryover data and standardized the reporting of Variety Survey information. More modifications will be needed before next year's surveys, but this year was a very positive first step.

##### Tobacco:

- Tobacco Programs – This year, Tobacco expanded reporting to the volume of contract sales on a weekly basis by grade and State.
- In the 2002 season, Tobacco implemented mandatory tobacco grading of contract and auction sales. This change created the necessity to modify the methods used and the data collected by market news.

##### Dairy:

- Due to industry consolidation and AMS policy concerning the number of reporting firms, the Eastern & Central nonfat dry milk reports were merged into one report. Regional market comments are presented with one inter-regional price range. Order Amendments – several public hearings were held to discuss industry requests for order amendments mainly addressing pooling provisions; final decisions were issued for the Upper Midwest and Mideast orders; decisions for the Central, Pacific Northwest, Western, and Northeast orders are in various stages of development; a decision concerning the Class III & IV price levels is in process.

## Fruit & Vegetable:

- F&V Idaho Falls began reporting Nebraska potato shipments and the Chicago office is now reporting Wyoming potato shipments.
- F&V Phoenix office is reporting Southern California bell pepper fob, Miscellaneous melon fob for the Desert area, a spinach fob for the Desert area and Arizona (in addition to the existing Central California fob), a Central California green onion fob, and a Central California cabbage fob. Phoenix plans to start bok choy, Chinese cabbage, and sugar pea fobs for California and Arizona this coming year.
- F&V Orlando is now reporting South Africa Clementines and Navel Oranges.

## Poultry:

- Poultry – a one-page weekly summary report that contains market information of particular interest to the Delmarva broiler/fryer industry. The new report is available every Tuesday on the Internet and by fax or e-mail.
- Poultry – a daily report showing volume and prices for broiler/fryer white meat parts marketed on an F.O.B. dock or equivalent basis by North Carolina processors. The daily report covers negotiated trading on about 750,000 pounds of boneless/skinless breasts, tenderloins, and cut wings.
- Poultry – a proposed one-page weekly summary report that contains market information of particular interest to small-volume poultry distributors in the upper Mid-west. The new report will be available every Tuesday on the Internet and by fax or e-mail.
- Poultry – a proposed weekly report showing volume and prices for all young broiler/fryers without neck or giblets (WOGS) delivered into the Central Region of the United States. The report, available every Monday, will be of particular interest to quick serve restaurants and retail grocers that prepare ready-to-eat meals.

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## Livestock and Grain:

- **Reports released beginning June 3, 2002:**LM\_XB452 – Weekly Branded Boxed beef products - Negotiated Sales Branded refers to the Upper Two-Thirds of the USDA Choice Grade – shows loads, pounds and individual cuts.
- LM\_XB462 – Weekly Boxed Beef Cuts for Ungraded Product - Negotiated Sales; FOB Plant basis negotiated sales for delivery within 0-21 days including sales since last report. Shows loads, pounds and individual cuts.
- **Reports released beginning June 17, 2002:**LM\_XB454 – Weekly Boxed Beef Cuts - Formulated Sales - FOB Plant basis formulated sales for delivery within 0-21 days including sales since last report; shows loads by grade and individual cuts.
- LM\_XB456 – Weekly Beef Cuts for Prime Product - Negotiated Sales - FOB Plant basis negotiated sales for delivery within 0-21 days including sales since last report; shows loads, pounds and individual cuts.
- **Report released beginning August 12, 2002:**LM\_XB463 – Weekly – comprehensive boxed beef cuts that include all boxed beef reporting types (negotiated 0-21, 21+; formula, and forward) for steer and heifers beef. Individual cuts will not be shown on the report only the values and load counts.
- With the release of these reports, AMS, LSP, Market News will be reporting approximately 60-65% of the boxed beef trade. The remaining processed products are either produced from smaller packers not reporting, represents frozen products sales, product, or product of distressed sales. Before the release of these reports, approximately 25% of the boxed trade was reported.



- **Cattle and Beef – Swine and Pork Summary Reports** - These daily reports, in pdf format, provide summary data with links to the specific reports as well as updated graphs and be access on our Web site at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mnacs/index.htm>.
- **Reports available in CSV format** - In addition, four national beef, three national lamb meat reports and one pork report are now available on the site in CSV format which allows users to directly download information into spreadsheets or a database.
- **Additional Meat Reports to be released** - Cow Beef Reports:
  - Daily Boneless Cow Beef and Beef Trimmings
  - Daily Cutter Cow and Boxed Cow Beef
  - Weekly Boneless Cow Beef and Beef Trimmings
  - Weekly Cutter Cow and Boxed Cow Beef

#### CHANGES:

- After a continuous run of 56 years, the Broiler/Fryer Market Report, printed three times weekly, was discontinued as a mailed report on August 1, 2002. The report will continue to be available on the Internet or by fax or e-mail.
- The California Invoice Price was discontinued and in its stead, the California Egg Marketing Association and other egg marketers' benchmark price was added. This change was made to more fully involve the marketers in California in determining egg prices in the state.

## AMS CONTACTS

Agricultural Marketing Service:

Web site: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/>

E-Mail to: [AMSWebmaster@usda.gov](mailto:AMSWebmaster@usda.gov) .

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## MARKET NEWS CONTACTS

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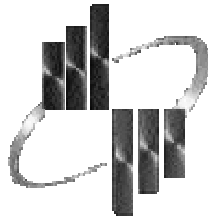
Dairy Market News – John Rourke – 202-720-2352; [john.rourke@usda.gov](mailto:john.rourke@usda.gov).

Livestock and Grain Market News – John VanDyke – 202-720-6231; [john.Vandyke@usda.gov](mailto:john.Vandyke@usda.gov)

Poultry Market News – Terry Hunter – 202-720-6911; [grovert.hunter@usda.gov](mailto:grovert.hunter@usda.gov)

Cotton Market News – Stokes Quisenberry – 901-384-3016; [stokes.quisenberry@usda.gov](mailto:stokes.quisenberry@usda.gov)

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## FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS YOUR KEY TO TRADE U. S. CENSUS BUREAU

Each month the Foreign Trade Division of the United States Census Bureau (Census) releases the “U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services “ report which is one of the principal economic indicators for the United States. This report along with other information can be found on our Web site at: [www.census.gov/foreign-trade](http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade) Information available includes:

- “U.S. International Trade in Goods & Services,” current and historical issues
- Information on the Automated Export System (AES)
- Schedule B commodity classification search
- Export and import statistics by country or commodity
- U.S. foreign trade export regulations

Beginning with January 2003 statistics, The Bureau of the Census will release the monthly merchandise trade statistics an average of seven days earlier than the 2002 release dates.

### DATA COMPILATION

- Automated Export System (AES)- developed as a joint venture of the U.S. Customs Service, the Census Bureau, other Federal agencies and the exporting community to electronically capture the Shipper’s Export Declaration (SED) information and the Carrier Outbound Manifest data.
- *AESDirect* - The Census’ free Internet-based system for filing Shipper’s Export Declaration (SED) through the Automated Export System (AES). The AES is an electronic alternative to filing the paper SED. Currently there are 6,636 AESDirect participants.
- *AESPCLink* - Windows based desktop PC component of the AESDirect Service. AESPCLink allows any AESDirect filer to enter their SEDs off-line and connect to AESDirect using the Internet to submit their SEDs.

### DATA QUALITY

In order for Census to accurately analyze, review, correct and publish quality statistics, we continuously interact with other government agencies. Census and USDA have established a working group which established liaisons within each agency, to communicate and attempt to resolve data discrepancies in a timely manner.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our Website at: [www.census.gov/foreign-trade](http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade)  
Visit the AES Website at: [www.customs.gov/aes](http://www.customs.gov/aes) or [www.aesdirect.gov](http://www.aesdirect.gov)  
Visit NAICS Website at: [www.census.gov/naics](http://www.census.gov/naics)

Foreign Trade Data Products:

**(301) 763-2227 or Fax: (301) 457-2647**

Correspondence can be written or faxed to:

Foreign Trade Division  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Washington, D.C. 20233-0001  
**Fax: (301) 457-1159**

AES Hotline

**(800) 549-0595**

Inquiries about our published statistics can be written, E-mailed, or faxed to:

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*ERS is working to enhance product consistency and improve the transparency of our work to the general public. We're enhancing the value-added nature of our work, strengthening ties between research and outlook, and working more closely with our inter-agency USDA partners.*

### **Improved Quality of Communication**

**Newsletters**—ERS converted all periodic reports to electronic newsletters as of January 2002. Since that time, we've issued more frequent *Fruit and Tree Nut*, *Sugar and Sweeteners*, and *Vegetable and Melon* reports. The field crop and livestock reports follow the same schedule as in past years, and will continue to do so in 2003. We're also updating monthly data in a more timely way through "most frequently requested tables" in briefing rooms and in special releases.

**E-Outlooks**—We're issuing 15 "supplemental article" e-outlooks that are notified to newsletter subscribers in 2002. Currently, 20 are planned for 2003. Look for e-outlooks later in 2002 on "issues in China's corn market," "the impact of imports of sugar-containing products on U.S. sugar deliveries," "U.S.-Mexico broiler trade," and more. Are there any you'd like to see us do?

**Agriculture and Trade Reports**—These "ATR" reports are longer reports that complement our newsletters and e-outlooks. They are monograph-length reports that bring together the best of our research and outlook programs. In 2002, we've issued global food assessment and NAFTA ATRs; we have ones on EU-U.S. policy comparisons, Cuba, plus others, in the works.

**A New Macroeconomic Presence on the ERS Website**—This spring, we initiated an Exchange Rate data page (based on a request from last year's Data Users' meeting), and an International Macroeconomic Data Page (updated twice yearly). We're posting a Macroeconomics Briefing Room in October, which analyzes income growth, financial linkages, employment, and more.

### **Program Integration**

**More Timely, User-Friendly Baseline**—ERS is working with WAOB and other agencies and is planning in 2003 on providing more timely access to key baseline data and information. Rather than issuing one major report in February, we will rely more on our briefing rooms, providing macro assumptions, data, and analysis in December; trade assumptions, data, and analysis in January; and domestic S&U tables and income projections in early February. Look for a streamlined baseline document in February, plus scenario analysis releases throughout the year.

**"Commodity Market Information System"**—Milton Ericksen, an ERS employee on detail to the WAOB, is coordinating a proposed USDA effort that focuses on the development of web-based excellence centers for key commodities and issues. These centers will enhance user access to critical commodity data, information, and analysis across USDA through "one-stop shopping."

**Trade Data Coordination**—With FAS's PSD and FATUS systems on-line, users can now access trade data directly from FAS. Our FATUS data page provides summary tables and we provide key trade information in the context of our commodity and country briefing rooms, but rely on FAS for the underlying data. An FAS-ERS-WAOB committee oversees how USDA manages its trade data and works with the Census Bureau to correct errors.

## New Initiatives

**New ERS Flagship Magazine**—ERS will debut a new, flagship magazine at USDA's Outlook Forum on February 20th. This new magazine will succeed *Agricultural Outlook*, *Food Review*, and *Rural America*, and cover the entire scope of the agency's work. The new magazine will be issued 5 times per year in hard copy, with frequent updates on the webzine component. All *AO* tables will reside on the webzine, at least through 2003. In the interim, we'll be working on new databases and products to provide more timely, easier-to-access delivery.

**Dynamic Outlook Page on the ERS Website**—This page will serve as a critical link to help users find all of our regular outlook publications, "e-outlook" articles on key issues, and key outlook-related tables on commodities, exchange rates, farm income, plus more.

**Retail Price Reporting for Meat**—In a mandated effort, ERS is publishing meat scanner data for beef, pork, chicken, turkey, veal, and lamb. Unlike BLS data, the meat scanner data include the effects of featuring, an index of volume sold, and percent sold under feature. The data are updated monthly on the 20<sup>th</sup> and are available as standard spreadsheets or a queriable database. The primary data are collected by a cooperator and provided to ERS in aggregated form.

**"Models on the Web"**—As part of the Federal government's Data Quality Initiative, ERS will be putting model documentation and in some cases, downloadable models, on our website. We will be starting this effort over the next few months, and will include our WTO models (which were developed with a cooperator) and ERS's in-house cattle model.

**Food Prices**—ERS has published monthly food price updates in *AO*. As the information content in monthly changes is perhaps small, we're planning to publish two-times-a-year updates and focus more on analyzing retail market dynamics. With new forms of competition emerging and a greater focus on consumer demand, our output will extend beyond the effects of primary commodity price changes to explain, in a larger context, key determinants of retail price changes.

**Floriculture Program**—ERS has resurrected its floriculture program, and will be publishing a newsletter and yearbook each year. In 2003, we will be introducing a floriculture and nursery crops briefing room to provide more frequent data updates and access to timely articles.

**WTO database**—ERS is developing a queriable database containing information on the implementation of WTO commitments by individual members in the areas of domestic support, export subsidies, and market access. Watch for it later this fall on the WTO Briefing Room.

**New Briefing Rooms**—ERS has briefing rooms of importance to the food and agricultural economy, with 70 currently in place. In addition to floriculture/nursery crops, we're planning new rooms on animal products, livestock market structure, and Japan. Are there others you'd like to see us create?

**Questions or Comments?** Please address them to Joy Harwood, Deputy Director for Market Outlook, at [jharwood@ers.usda.gov](mailto:jharwood@ers.usda.gov) or 202-694-5202



## ***Fact Sheet***

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### ***Accessing Global Commodity Information from USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service***

Market intelligence lies at the root of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) effort to promote exports. FAS acquires data from satellite imagery, foreign statistics, and through its global network of offices in over 130 countries. In Washington, DC, FAS' Commodity and Marketing Programs Area (CMP) has the responsibility to analyze this information along with the World Agricultural Outlook Board, Economic Research Service and other agencies, to publish short term world production, supply and demand estimates monthly. FAS' commodity knowledge supports USDA on issues of market access, food aid, export credits, and technical assistance and is a source of unbiased information for the market.

#### **FAS Online and New Data Products**

You can tap into the FAS information network of agricultural counselors, attaches, and trade officers stationed abroad, and analysts, marketing specialists, negotiators, and related specialists in Washington, DC through the Internet at: **<http://www.fas.usda.gov>** Each of CMP's nine Divisions maintain and update their own web sites with analysis, circulars, and timely news items, often related to market access or competitive issues faced by U.S. exporters.

**U.S. Trade Database Online:** USDA has released a searchable, web-based U.S. export and import trade system with data for agricultural, fishery, and forestry products. This dynamic web based system is designed to service frequent requests for trade data from farmers; industry associations; federal, congressional, and state officials; university researchers; and journalists. The new database is searchable at any level in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. Find U.S. Trade Online at: **<http://www.fas.usda.gov/ustrade/>**

**PS&D Online:** USDA's Production, Supply and Demand forecasts are now Online in a web-enabled browser. This new database gives users the capability to instantly access and download USDA forecasts after lockup and provides faster electronic access to forecasts such as for fruits and vegetables, that are not part of USDA's lockup procedures. Users may select from a menu of pre-defined tables categorized by commodity or commodity group, or create custom queries for specific commodities, attributes and/or countries. The system enables you to view queried data on screen or download it as a file that you can open with your spreadsheet or database program.

Use this system at: **<http://www.fas.usda.gov/psd/>**

#### **USDA's Crop Explorer Helps Analysts Track AgroMeteorological Data Worldwide**

A new on-line web site, Crop Explorer, provides easy-to-read crop condition information for most agricultural regions in the world. With this data, U.S. and international producers, traders, researchers, and the public can access weather and satellite information used by agricultural economists and scientists who predict crop production worldwide. The site includes more than 9500 charts and pages. Weather and satellite data are updated every ten days. The crop explorer site can be found at internet address: **<http://www.fas.usda.gov/pecad>**. Click on Crop Explorer. For

further information, please contact the Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division at (202) 720-0888 or: [pecad@fas.usda.gov](mailto:pecad@fas.usda.gov).

### **World Production, Market and Trade Reports (Circulars)**

The *World Market and Trade Reports* provide the latest analysis and data on a number of agricultural commodities, outlining the current supply, demand and trade estimates for the United States and many major foreign countries. FAS releases monthly updates for cotton, grain, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables, and world agricultural production and twice yearly updates on meat and dairy products. Field crop publications are released on the business day following release of the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE). Horticultural publications are published at beginning of each month. Coffee and sugar estimates are released twice a year. FAS is experimenting with early release versions of several commodity circulars including cotton, tobacco, and world production. These releases have been popular with users and we plan more early data releases. Find FAS' current commodity information at

**<http://www.fas.usda.gov/currwmt.html>**

### **Global Agricultural Information Network (Attache Reports)**

This electronic reporting system, covering all major crop and livestock products, provides timely information to U.S. exporters and commodity analysts and is a resource to aid USDA in determining global production, supply, and demand estimates. It provides information on policies and market demand that affect the sales of U.S. agricultural products worldwide. Reaching beyond traditional commodity reporting, this system also provides updates on high value foods, fishery and forestry products, trade policy monitoring, and sector reports on food processors and the hotel and restaurant industry abroad. FAS' foreign based staff submits about 3,000 reports each year. You may register to receive automatically via List Service reports on a specific country, commodity, or issue. Reports are at FAS Online:

**<http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/faspush/default.asp>**

### **AgExporter Magazine**

A monthly magazine for businesses selling farm products overseas and it provides tips on exporting, identifies markets with the greatest sales potential, and updates readers on major market access issues. A recent edition tackled issues in Indonesia, Japan, and Northern Europe. Register for AgExporter at FAS Online.

### **Export Sales Report**

Weekly export sales reports serve as a timely early warning system on the possible impact of agricultural obligations on U.S. supplies and prices. The data can be used, for example, to assess the level of export demand, to determine where markets exist, and to assess the relative position of different commodities in those markets. This monitoring system provides a constant stream of up-to-date information on the quantity of U.S. agricultural commodities that are sold abroad. Find Export Sales at: **<http://www.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/esrd1.html>**

*With comments on FAS analysis contact Randy Zeitner, Assistant Deputy Administrator for Analysis, at (202) 720-7792 or [randy.zeitner@fas.usda.gov](mailto:randy.zeitner@fas.usda.gov)*





## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE STATISTICS DIVISION

### ***WHAT'S NEW, WHAT'S CHANGED, & WHAT'S COMING?***

**NASS Mission Statement:** To provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. Agriculture.

### **2002 Census of Agriculture**

The 2002 Census of Agriculture questionnaires will be mailed in December 2002. The Census of Agriculture is done once every 5 years, in years ending in two and seven. This census will provide information at the county, State, and National levels, showing in detail how farmers and ranchers stand today compared to 5 years ago. New information from the 2002 Census of Agriculture will include data on production contracts, acres treated with manure, computer and Internet access, sales of organically produced commodities, and demographics on up to three operators per farm. Release of the 2002 Census of Agriculture data will be on February 3, 2004.

### **General**

In February 2002, NASS published the *Guide to the Sample Surveys and Census Programs of NASS*. This publication contains a series of information sheets describing the major NASS programs. These sheets are designed to provide a concise description of the purpose, coverage, content, methods, products, and uses of data for each program.

### **Crops**

NASS published a new table in the November 2001 *Crop Production* report showing the frequency distribution of corn plant populations. The distribution was shown for the 2001 year and four previous years for comparison. The data were compiled from the Corn Objective Yield survey conducted in seven States.

A new table included in the August *Crop Production* report was for winter wheat head counts. The wheat head counts table detailed survey results by State from the August Winter Wheat Objective Yield survey. Also included in the table were final counts from previous years and previously reported July survey results.

The September and October *Crop Production* reports include additional Objective Yield survey data which supplements the data that have been published in the past. The survey data tables for corn, cotton, and soybeans continue to be published in September and include historical data for each month the survey is conducted as well as final average corn plant and ear counts. Objective yield average fruit count tables will be published each month during the forecast season with October cotton boll counts and soybean pod counts published for the first time. Corn plant and ear

count averages were also published for irrigated and non irrigated fields in the Objective Yield survey for Nebraska.

NASS discontinued the small grain acreage, yield, and production forecasts in the September *Crop Production* report because the only new information is on yields and any new acreage data are not available until the final report. This has been confusing to data users to publish a production forecast in the September *Crop Production* report and 2 to 3 weeks later, publish a new production number in the *Small Grains* report. The *Small Grains* report containing the annual acreage, yield, and production estimates is published the last working day of September.

Starting in 2002, Missouri was added to the rice progress and condition tables in the weekly *Crop Progress* report. Information on NASS survey and estimating procedures used to prepare this report was also added.

Beginning in 2002, NASS reduced the number of vegetable crops estimated in the five *Vegetables* reports, *Annual Vegetables Summary*, and *Agricultural Chemical Use-Vegetable Summary*. Detailed information on the 2002 vegetable statistics program and changes from 2001 are available at [www.usda.gov/nass/events/programchg/vegprogchngs.htm](http://www.usda.gov/nass/events/programchg/vegprogchngs.htm).

NASS has expanded the satellite image crop maps that are available on CD-ROM. Satellite image crop maps are available for Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, North Dakota, and portions of Missouri and Nebraska. These images, referred to as the cropland data layer, can be used in geographic information systems (GIS) applications. CD-ROM(s) can be ordered through the NASS Web site at [www.nass.usda.gov/research/Cropland/SARS1a.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/research/Cropland/SARS1a.htm)

## **Environmental, Economics, and Demographics**

NASS Agricultural Chemical Usage statistics dating back to 1990 are now available in a query friendly database created through cooperation with and supported by North Carolina State University's Center for Integrated Pest Management. Data users can search for chemical usage data based on crop, year, region, or active ingredient; extract various usage statistics from previously published data; and create U.S. maps or other descriptive charts based on these data. These data can be accessed at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/), by clicking on the Ag Chem Database icon.

*Agricultural Chemical Usage - 2000 Nursery and Floriculture Summary* was released April 2002 based on a survey in six selected States (CA, FL, MI, OR, PA, TX). This new report provides data on application rates and total amounts applied in 18 production categories for 307 chemical active ingredients. In addition, data were published on pest management practices.

*Agricultural Chemical Usage - 2001 Field Crops Summary* was released May 2002; *2001 Fruit Summary* was released August 2002. Both reports featured, for the first time, pest management data collected from the same respondents sampled for chemical use statistics. Previously, pest management data were collected as a "stand-alone" survey. This change will allow researchers to study the use of specific practices and the affect on or changes in chemical use as a result of these pest management strategies.

*Agricultural Chemical Usage - 2001 Dairy Cattle and Dairy Facilities Summary* was released May 2002. This report was the second in a series on chemical usage for dairy cattle and facilities. This is the first time data were published at the State level for 21 selected States. Data published includes rate of application and total amount applied by active ingredient plus pest management practices used by dairy operators.

*Farms and Land in Farms*, released February 2002, included expanded economic sales classes. Data on the percent of farms and land in farms are now available for farms with value of sales of \$1,000,000 or more.

## **Livestock**

The January *Cattle* report included a new table showing a 3-State total for the number of cattle and calves grazing on small grain pasture. The 3-State total for Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, was requested by the cattle industry.

*Poultry Slaughter - Annual Summary* was released for the first time in April 2002 which includes revisions for the previous calendar year. Beginning in March, *Poultry Slaughter* monthly releases were reformatted and now include percent changes from the previous year and previous month for all U.S. data.

Monthly *Cold Storage* releases include new data series for turkey toms and turkey hens. It also includes new data series for Individually Quick Frozen (IQF) and Poly, Pails and Tubs, Barrels and Drums, and Juice Stock for strawberries. All the new data series are available only for the U.S.

NASS released the *U.S. Wildlife Damage* report in May 2002. This report showed the total crop and livestock losses incurred by agricultural producers in 2001 from wildlife damage. Economic losses were divided into three categories: field crops; livestock and poultry; and vegetables, fruits, and nuts. The report also showed how much damage was caused by different wildlife species.

A special report, *U.S. Dairy Herd Structure*, was issued September 2002. This report contains a summary of the changes in the structure of the U.S. dairy herd by size of operation and geographic location. This report is available only on the NASS Website or directly from [//usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/livestock/pct-bb](http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/livestock/pct-bb).

A special report, *U.S. Hog Breeding Herd Structure*, was issued September 2002. This report contains a summary of the changes in the structure of the U.S. hog breeding herd by size of operation and trends in its breeding herd efficiency. This report is available only on the NASS Website or directly from [//usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/livestock/php-bb/2002](http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/livestock/php-bb/2002).

The *Catfish and Trout* release was split into two publications. This allowed *Catfish* to be released in early February, while *Trout* was released in late February.

Weekly *Broiler Hatchery* expanded publication from a 15-State total to a 19-State total. Both totals were published for a period of 1 year to allow data users to shift to the new 19-State total. Broiler-type eggs set and chicks placed coverage increased to over 95 percent of U.S. total.

State level monthly turkey price estimates were discontinued in January 2002. U.S. turkey prices will continue to be published monthly in *Agricultural Prices*.

In the monthly *Dairy Products* reports, State level estimates of lactose and whey protein concentrate for human consumption, were discontinued in February of 2002. Monthly U.S. level estimates continue to be published.

January 1 sheep inventory and wool production data are now available on the NASS website dating back to 1867.



## **World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB) Office of the Chief Economist, USDA**

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Comments about WAOB programs may be directed to Gerald A. Bange, Chairperson, Mail Stop 3812, South Bldg, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-3182; (202) 720-6030; [gbange@oce.usda.gov](mailto:gbange@oce.usda.gov).

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### **Recent Developments**

#### **Forecasting Activities**

In May 2002, reporting of European Union (EU-15) grain exports and imports in the WASDE report was revised to exclude trade between EU member nations. Historical supply and use estimates for the EU-15 and the world were revised to reflect this change.

Thus far in 2002/03, wheat markets have been turbulent as world production prospects change rapidly. USDA was among the earliest to forecast large EU wheat production, and subsequently tracked deteriorating prospects in the western and southern hemispheres. Most notable were early warnings of foreign crop impacts provided for drought and its impact on grains and oilseeds in Canada, wheat and barley in Australia, and cotton, grains, and oilseeds in India.

Over the past year, WAOB meteorologists kept agricultural analysts, decision-makers, and the press informed about potentially crop-damaging weather events in the United States and around the globe. In the United States, special assessments included the Deep South cold outbreak of January 3-9, the Eastern drought, periodic freezes in the Southeast (January-March), the April freeze in the Great Lakes states, and the impact of heavy rains from Tropical Storm Isidore and heavy winds from Hurricane Lili on Delta crops.

#### **Agricultural Weather Summary**

A national summary of agricultural weather impacts is posted each weekday morning at <http://www.usda.gov/agency/oce/waob/jawf>. This site also links to the weekly *U.S. Drought Monitor*, jointly produced by USDA, the National Weather Service, and the National Drought Mitigation Center.

#### **Strengthening the Commodity Forecasting Program**

WAOB is coordinating actions by USDA agencies (OCE, ERS, FAS, AMS) to strengthen the Department's commodity forecasting program.

A second annual forum for interagency commodity estimates committees, held recently, was attended by 125 USDA analysts and invited guests from the Congress, the private sector and academia. Non-government participants included: Mark Lange, National Cotton Council; Bob Yonkers, International Dairy foods Association; Nancy Devore, Bellingham Commodity Trade Analysis, Inc.; Brad Anderson, Sparks Companies, Inc.; and, Ron Plain, University of Missouri.

This year's Forum highlighted FAS contributions to the ICEC process. FAS agricultural counselors from Mexico, the European Union, and Argentina (by audio/visual teleconference) presented their views on reporting from abroad relative to the ICEC process. The Forum provided the basis for a new set of interagency priorities which, as in the first Forum, are designed to assure that users of USDA's situation and outlook reports continue to receive high quality information in a timely manner using the most efficient information sharing, knowledge management, and communication techniques available.

As a followup from the first Forum, monthly teleconferences are taking place between USDA and university extension personnel relating to the grains and hog sectors. Ensuing dialogue and critiques have broadened the analytical perspective of participants.

### **Trade Statistics Database**

WAOB, ERS, and FAS are working together on improving USDA trade statistics. New HTS commodity codes for 2002 were incorporated into the trade database and Census Bureau annual revisions were correctly applied. The team is working with USDA analysts and the Census Bureau to further reduce data discrepancies.

FAS has launched internet access to the trade database. The public can now access agricultural trade data in the FATUS, BICO, FAS, and HTS formats at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/data.html>. During the past 9 months, 160,000 reports were requested from the system.

### **Commodity Market Information System**

USDA has submitted a \$3.2 million budget initiative in the fiscal year 2003 budget proposal to develop a commodity market information system web portal. We will not know the outcome of the initiative funding until Congress has acted on the FY-03 appropriations for USDA. Our vision for this website is to provide users of commodity market information with a one-stop source of data, forecasts, and information now available separately from AMS, ERS, FSA, FAS, NASS and the WAOB. The website would reflect what we know is technologically feasible in terms of queries, searches, and presentation of information. It would also assure users access to the most up-to-date and official USDA commodity market information.

To be ready to use initiative funds effectively, or in the event funding does not materialize to strengthen the case for additional funding for the future, WAOB has contracted with **Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc.** to help develop a definitive business case for the website. A business case states the problem and identifies alternative solutions. It points to a preferred solution, develops the specifications, and lays out the risks and mitigation steps associated with adoption. A major step in creating this business case will involve seeking information from stakeholders with an interest in this system.

### **USDA Baseline Projections**

WAOB is coordinating the preparation of *USDA Agricultural Baseline Projections to 2012*, planned for release in February 2003. It will offer a future scenario for supply and demand for major U.S. commodities, farm income, and exports based on the 2002 Farm Bill and other key assumptions. The 2002 baseline projections report, WAOB-2002-1, can be downloaded at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/baseline>, or ordered from ERS-NASS by calling 1-800-999-6779.

## **China Crop Estimates**

At the request of China's National Bureau of Statistics, WAOB led a U.S. delegation to Beijing to assess China's agricultural statistics program. Special emphasis was placed on China's reporting obligations in view of WTO membership. In four days of frank discussions with Chinese counterparts, USDA delegates made recommendations, which, if adopted, will improve Chinese agricultural statistics. As a result of this and previous meetings, there is clear evidence that China is liberalizing statistical reporting practices.

## **Strengthening U.S. Weather Observation Network**

WAOB was successful in convincing the National Weather Service (NWS) to maintain the number of cooperative observer stations in the U.S. (COOP) network, especially in agricultural areas. USDA is supporting network modernization with a budget initiative to pass back \$1 million to NWS to be used specifically for agricultural instrumentation at 1,000 of the network's 11,000 sites. NWS will consult with USDA regarding site placement.

## **Water Availability in the Rio Grande Basin**

WAOB contributed to an "Assessment of Drought and Water Availability for Crop Production In the Rio Grande Basin". This report was provided to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate in response to Conference Report 107-275 which mandated the Secretary of Agriculture to assess the impact of a persistent water deficit in the region and to summarize the Department's authorities and plans to provide relief to U.S. producers. Conferees raised concerns about Mexico's failure to meet its water obligations under a 1944 Water Treaty.

USDA agricultural meteorologists have arranged with the Mexican National Meteorological Service to gain access to agricultural weather information from Mexico. USDA's Chief Meteorologist is helping MNMS develop a report comparable to the *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin*.

## **2002 USDA Outlook Forum**

USDA's annual outlook forum attracted record attendance record of 1,400. In addition to standard topics, timely sessions covering biotechnology, bio-security, animal diseases, and food safety were presented. Opening sessions were broadcast over the Web and by CSPAN TV. The next Forum will be February 20 and 21, 2003. For program details go to: [www.usda.gov/oce](http://www.usda.gov/oce).

## **Homeland Security**

WAOB is working to secure its ability to produce the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* report and perform other essential functions following a catastrophic event. WAOB and NASS, which share the same space at USDA headquarters where the lockup reports are prepared and released, are developing a joint plan for continuity of operations at a remote location.

The security of WAOB and NASS offices involved in the lockup will be enhanced when WAOB and NASS move to a newly renovated wing of the USDA South Building. The area will incorporate added security features including controlled and monitored access into and within the wing, encrypted telecommunications, and detection of wireless devices in the lockup area.

## **WAOB Data and Products**

### **Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin**

The Joint Agricultural Weather Facility – operated by WAOB and the National Weather Service – issues the *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin*. The report provides extensive detail on U.S. and international crop weather impacts. The *Bulletin* is available on the WAOB home page and an archive of issues dating to 1985 is posted at the Mann Library of Cornell University, <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu>.

### **Crop Handbook Available on the Internet**

*Major World Crop Areas and Climatic Profiles* is a popular reference for tracking crop production around the world. Maps, climate, and production data are shown for selected crops and countries. Go to <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/profiles/mwcacp.htm>.

### **WASDE Report**

The *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* report will be released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time on the following dates in 2003: Jan. 10, Feb. 11, Mar. 11, Apr. 10, May 12, June 11, July 11, Aug. 12, Sep. 11, Oct. 10, Nov. 12, Dec. 11. The WASDE report is posted on the WAOB home page: [www.usda.gov/oce/waob/wasde/wasde.htm](http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/wasde/wasde.htm). and on the USDA Economics and Statistics System: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu>. You can download this report in either Adobe Acrobat format or in plain text format. There is no charge to use these sites.

### **Combined Monthly Calendar**

Access <http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/rptcal/calindex.htm> for a combined monthly calendar of reports from NASS, ERS, FAS, and WAOB. To go to a report, just click on its title.

### **Reports by E-mail or FAX**

Prefer getting reports by e-mail? You can request free e-mail subscriptions to any report issued by WAOB, ERS, or NASS. The reports are automatically sent to you shortly after release. Just go to: <http://www.usda.mannlib.cornell.edu>, click on “e-mail reports” and select desired titles.

You can also retrieve the WASDE report by fax from the ERS Autofax system. Call (202) 694-5700 from your fax machine handset and follow voice prompts to retrieve document 66900.

### **Historical Data Disk**

An archive of historical monthly supply and demand estimates back to 1973, “WASDE Crop, Livestock, and Dairy Estimates,” is now available in spreadsheet form on disk from ERS-NASS (1-800-999-6779). This database also can be downloaded from <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu>.

# Special Presentation: "Brazil: Forecasting the Unknown"

Slide 1

## Brazil: Forecasting the Unknown

USDA Data User's Forum  
Chicago, Illinois  
October 21, 2002

Robert Tetrault  
USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service  
Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division

Slide 2

Foreign Agricultural Service  
Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division

## Brazil Soybean Production

"The 3 Great Unknowns"

Last Year's Crop Size ?

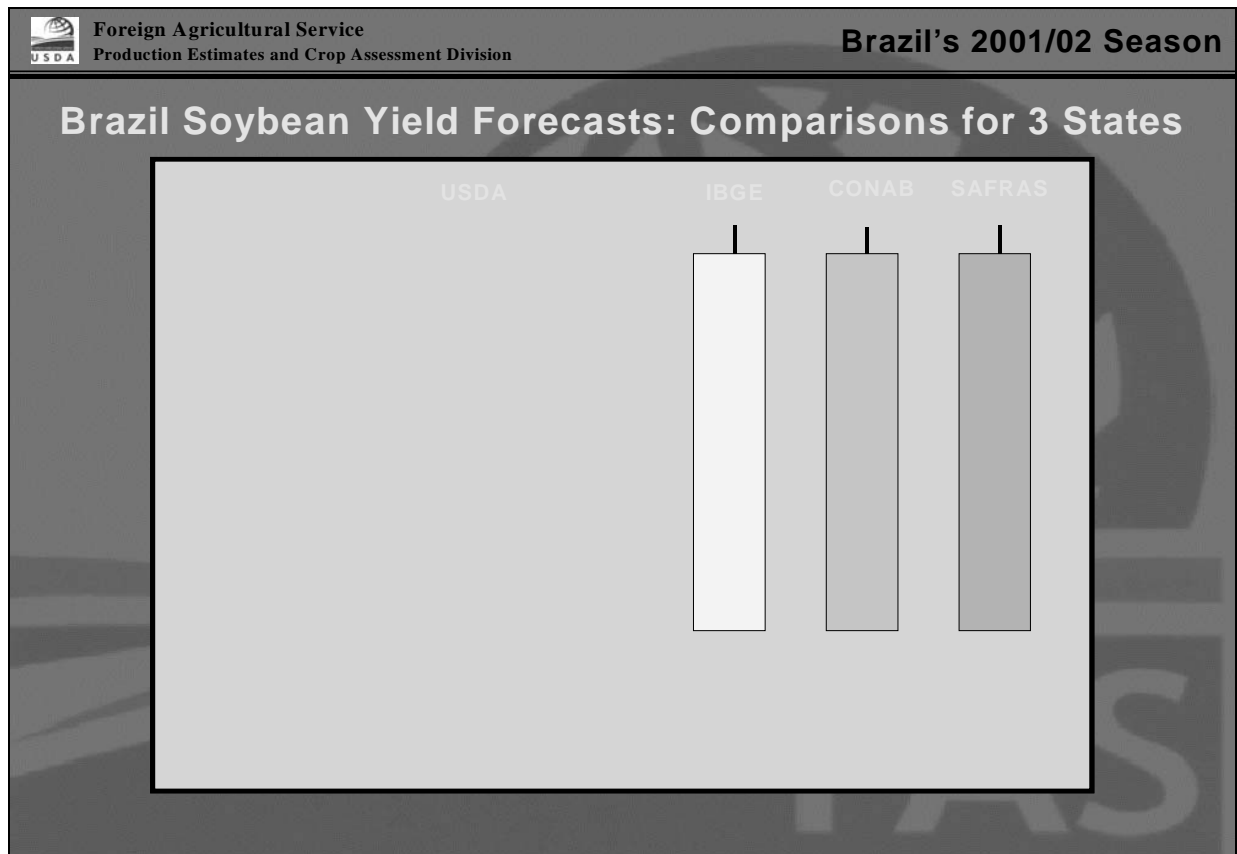
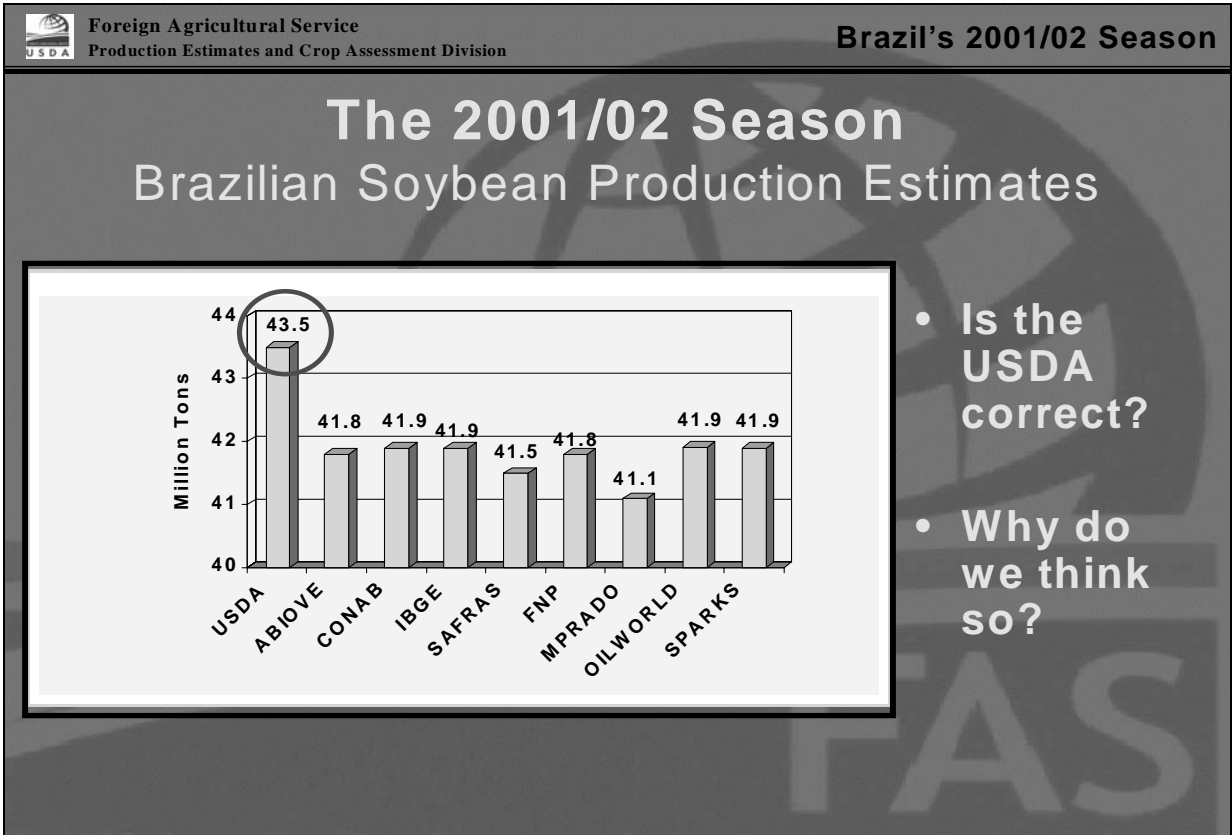
This Year's Crop Size ?

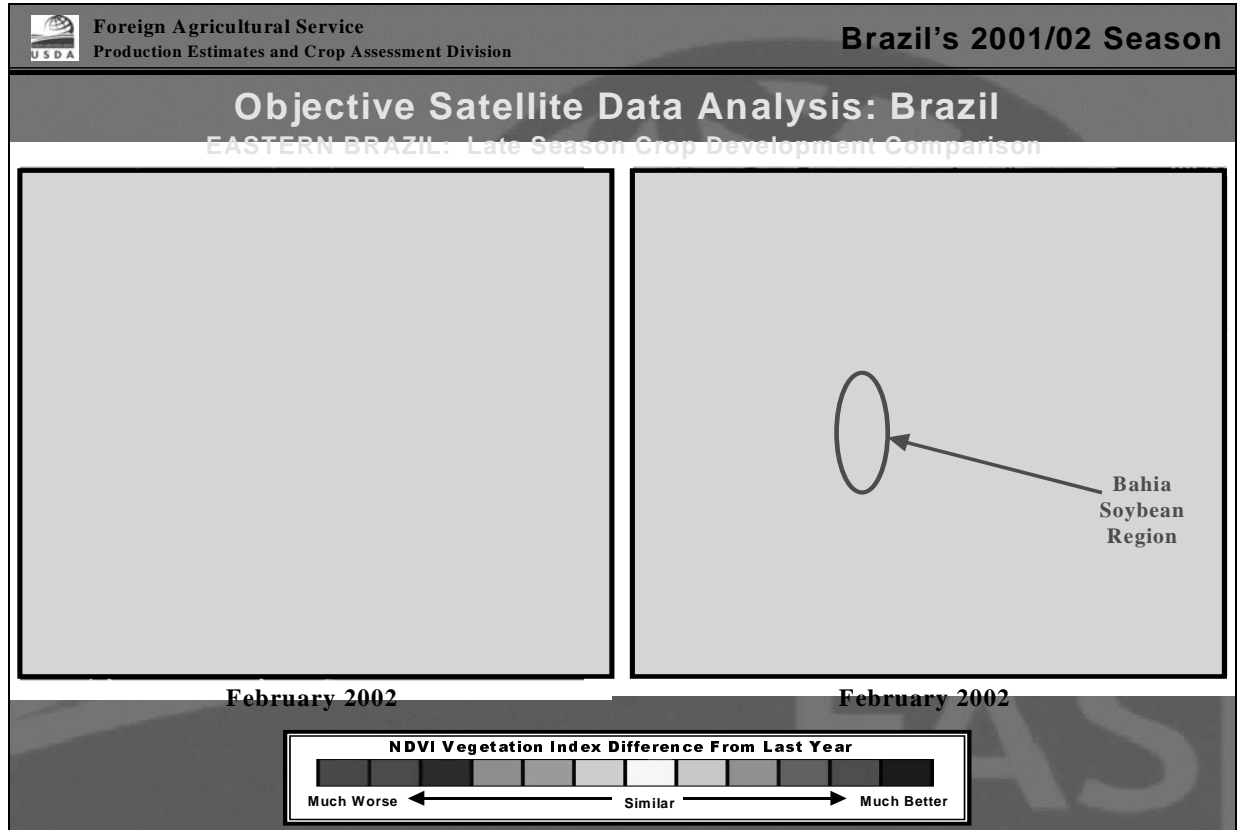
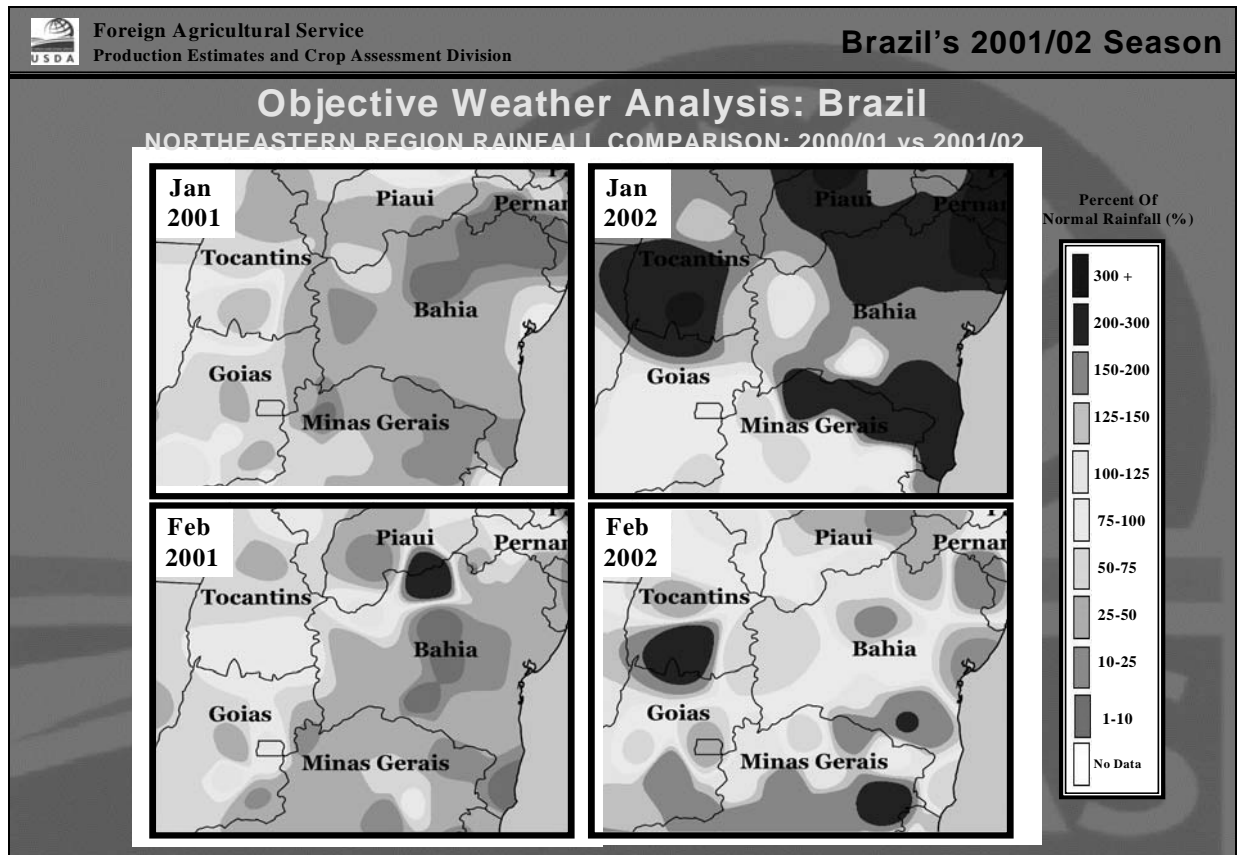
The Future to 2011 ?

Year	Production (Million Tons)
1995	41.8
1996	41.9
1997	41.9
1998	41.5
1999	41.8
2000	41.1
2001	41.9
2002	41.9


Year	Area (Million Hectares)	Production (Million Tons)
1985	10	10
1990	15	15
1995	20	20
2000	30	30
2005	40	40
2010	50	50
2011	55	55







Slide 7

**Foreign Agricultural Service**  
Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division

**Brazil's 2001/02 Season**

**Satellite Image Examples: Medium Resolution LANDSAT**

Regional Scale – Western Bahia, Brazil

Zoom-in To Farm-Field Level

- Good tool for localized crop condition assessment
- Good tool for crop stage determination
- Global coverage available
- Expensive

Slide 8

**Foreign Agricultural Service**  
Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division

**Brazil's 2001/02 Season**

**Document and Discuss Competitors Forecast Record**

**BRAZIL: ABIOVE Soybean Forecast History**

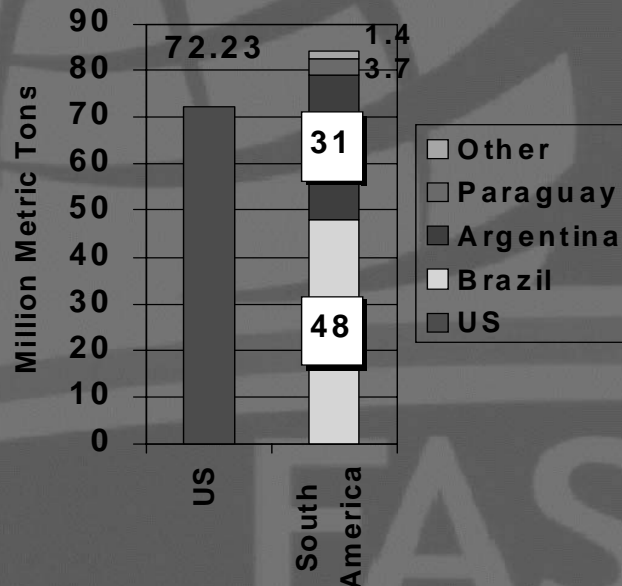
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**Critical to independent analysis – know the capability of forecast sources !**

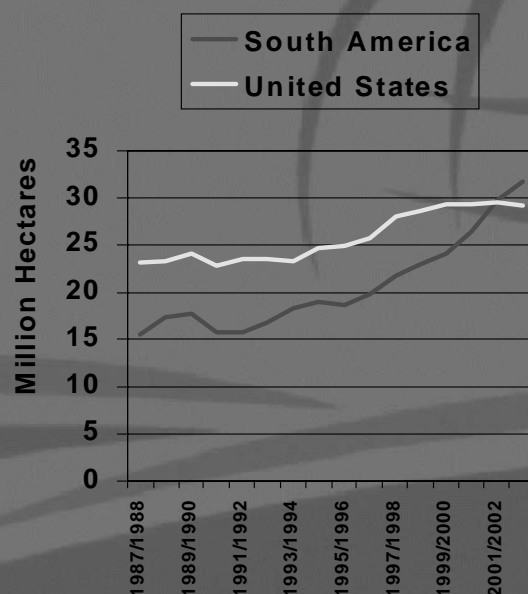


## South American Soybean Production Passes U.S Production

- 2002/03 South American soybean production estimated at 84.1 million tons.
- Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay expecting record production.



## Sharp Area Increases in 2001/02 and 2002/03 in South America



- Profitability of export crops increased due to devaluation of Brazilian and Argentine currencies.
- Brazil soybean area increased 17% in 2001/02.

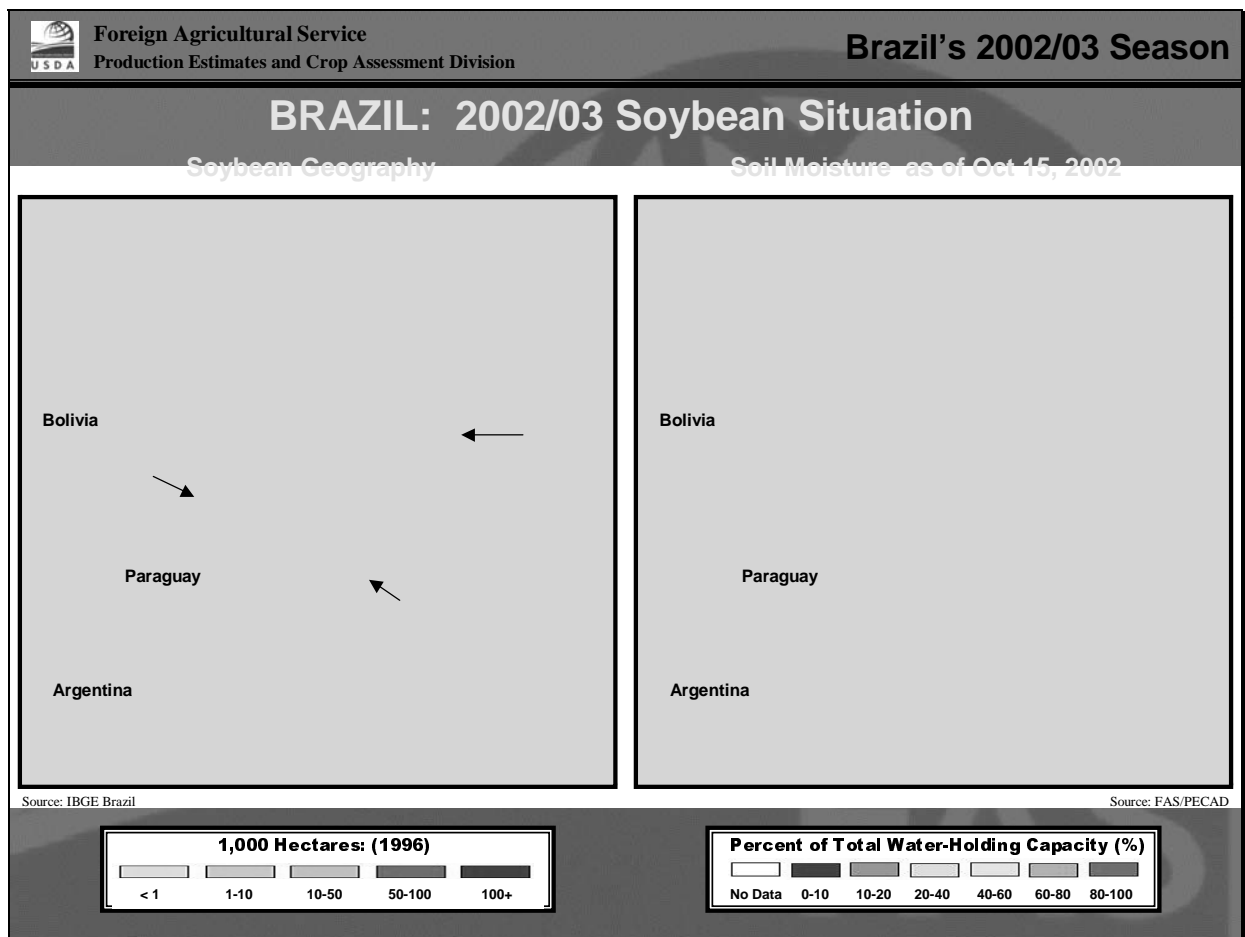


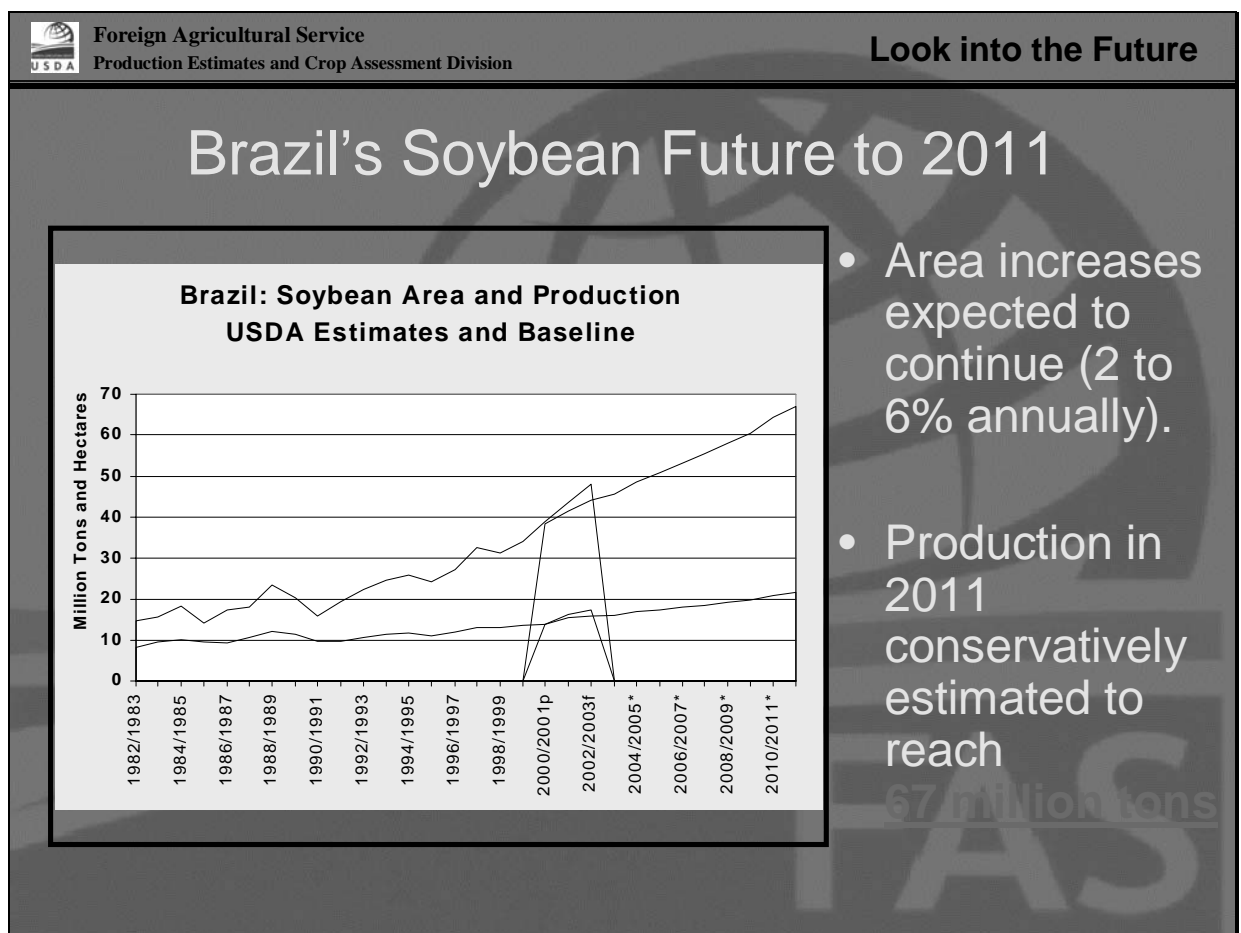
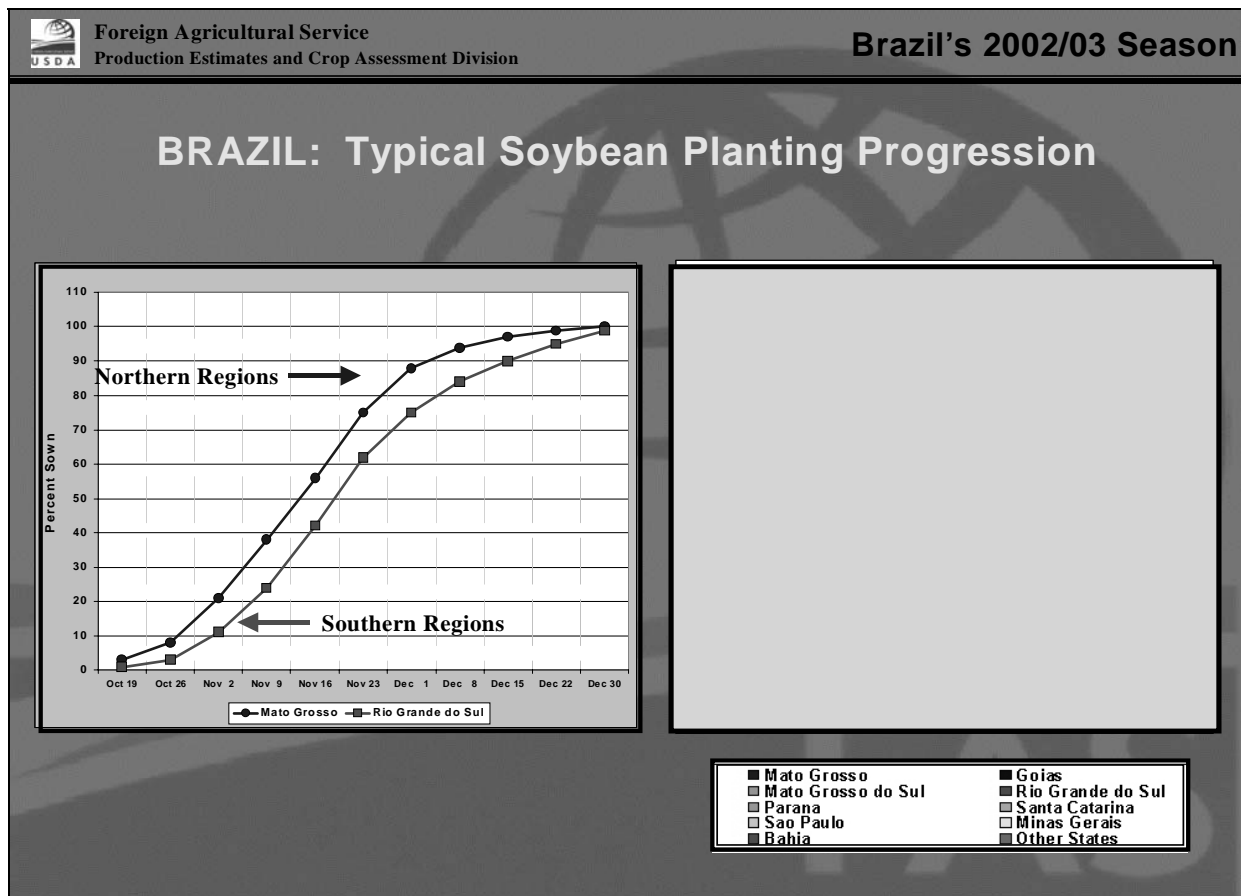
**Foreign Agricultural Service**  
 Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division

**Brazil's 2002/03 Season**

## Brazil Soybean 2002/03 Outlook

- Brazil soybean area increasing by 7%.
- Yields expected near 10-year trend.
- Production estimates for 2002/03 range between 47 and 49.7 million metric tons.
  - USDA estimates 48.0 million.
- El Nino expected for this year
  - Correlates with above normal rainfall in southern Brazil.





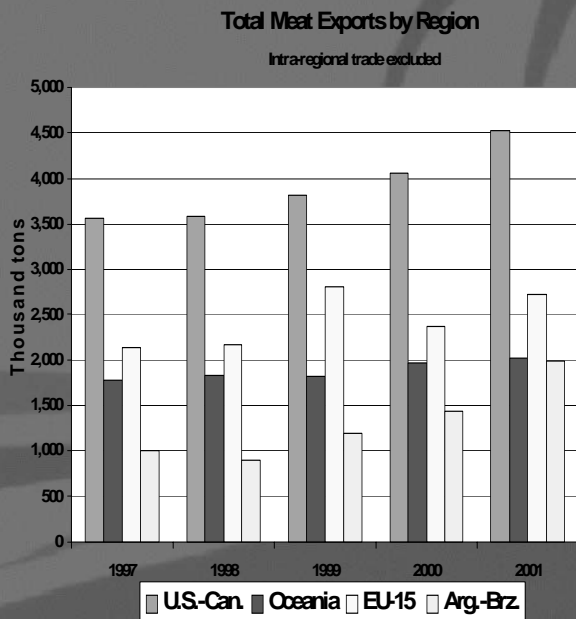


## Brazil's Future Soybean Area

- Area expansion in the Center-West
- Potential area increase is **67.8 million hectares**
  - (SAFRAS-2001 study includes North, Northeast, and Center-West.)
- Potential production increase is **1.73 million tons.**
- Will future world demand absorb this surplus?
- What does this mean for U.S. producers?

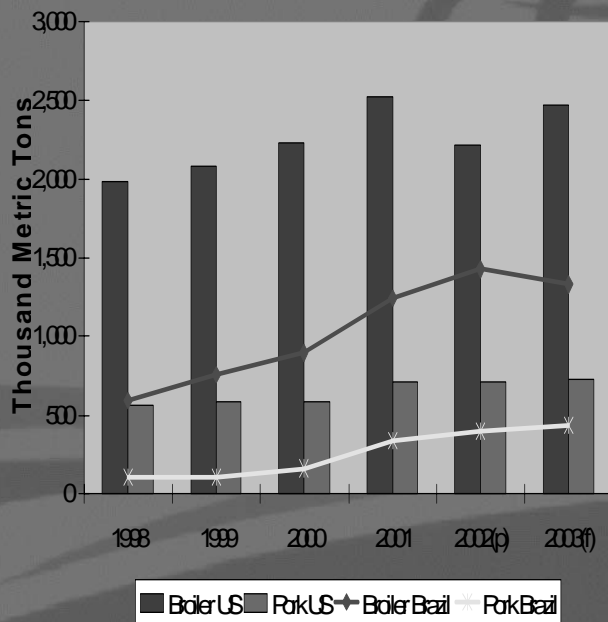


## Developments and Prospects for Major Animal Food Products in Brazil



- Brazil –one of the world's main suppliers of agricultural goods– has been raising beef, milk, pork and poultry productivity and exports.
- Despite growth in domestic demand of animal food products, exports have increased at a much faster pace making this country a net exporter of various livestock products.
- Further reduction of trade barriers will help Brazil further in capturing a larger share of the world export market.

## Broiler and Pork Exports for the US and Brazil



### Key Factors

- Production costs and export competitiveness of animal products.
- Domestic consumption preferences relate to the overall agricultural economy
- Animal health issues and implications for trade.
- What is the future of port, transportation and other infrastructure?

ERS



Foreign Agricultural Service  
Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division

### Contact Our Staff at:

**Production Estimates & Crop Assessment Division**  
Rm 6053, USDA South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250  
Tel: 202-720-0888  
Email: [pecad@fas.usda.gov](mailto:pecad@fas.usda.gov)

Browse Our Extensive Web Content at:

***PECAD OnLine***

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/pecad/pecad.html>

Including the new

***Crop Explorer*** and ***PSD OnLine***



# "Review of NASS and WAOB Forecasting and Estimation Methodology"

Slide 1

## Understanding Crop Forecasts and Estimates



October 21, 2002

Slide 2

### Overview of Program

January	→	Winter Wheat Seedings Final Production Previous Year's Spring Crops December 1 Grain in Storage
March	→	Acreage Growers Intend to Plant March 1 Grain in Storage
May-Aug	→	Wheat Production Forecasts
June 30	→	Acres Planted - Spring Crops June 1 Grain Stocks - Wheat Carry-out
Aug-Nov	→	Production Forecasts - Spring Crops
Sept 30	→	Small Grain Final Production Sep 1 Grain Stocks - Corn - Soy - Carry-out

## NASS Crop Forecasts and Estimates

Acreage . . . . .To be Planted

Planted

To be Harvested

Harvested

Production . . . . .Forecasts

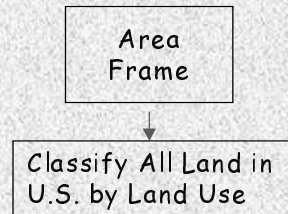
Estimates

Stocks . . . . .Quantities On & Off Farms



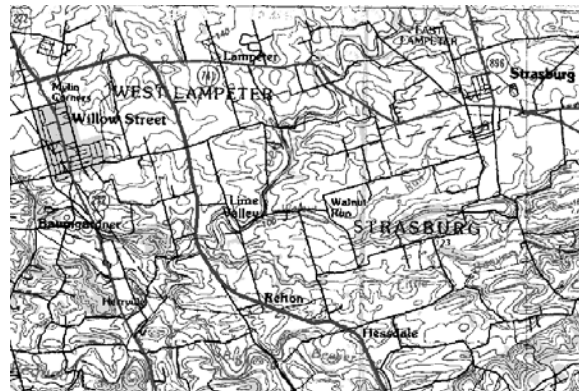
## NASS Survey Methods

- |                 |   |                                       |
|-----------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Area Frame      | - | Randomly Selected<br>Segments of Land |
| List Frame      | - | Names - Farm Operators                |
|                 | - | Size - Type                           |
|                 | - | Storage Facilities -                  |
|                 |   | Processing Facilities, etc            |
| Objective Yield | - | Field Measurements                    |
|                 | - | Plants - # Fruit,<br>Fruit Weight     |

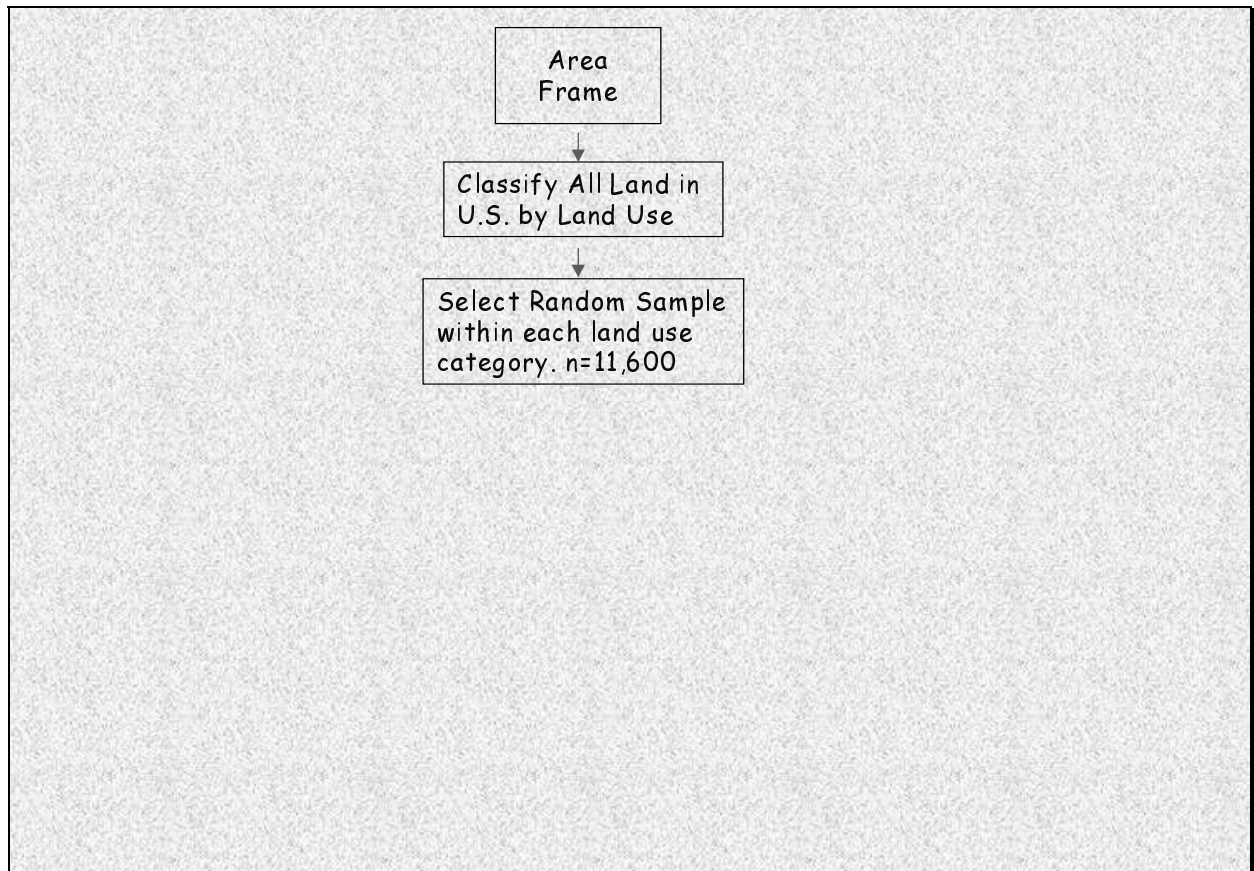


## Satellite Image

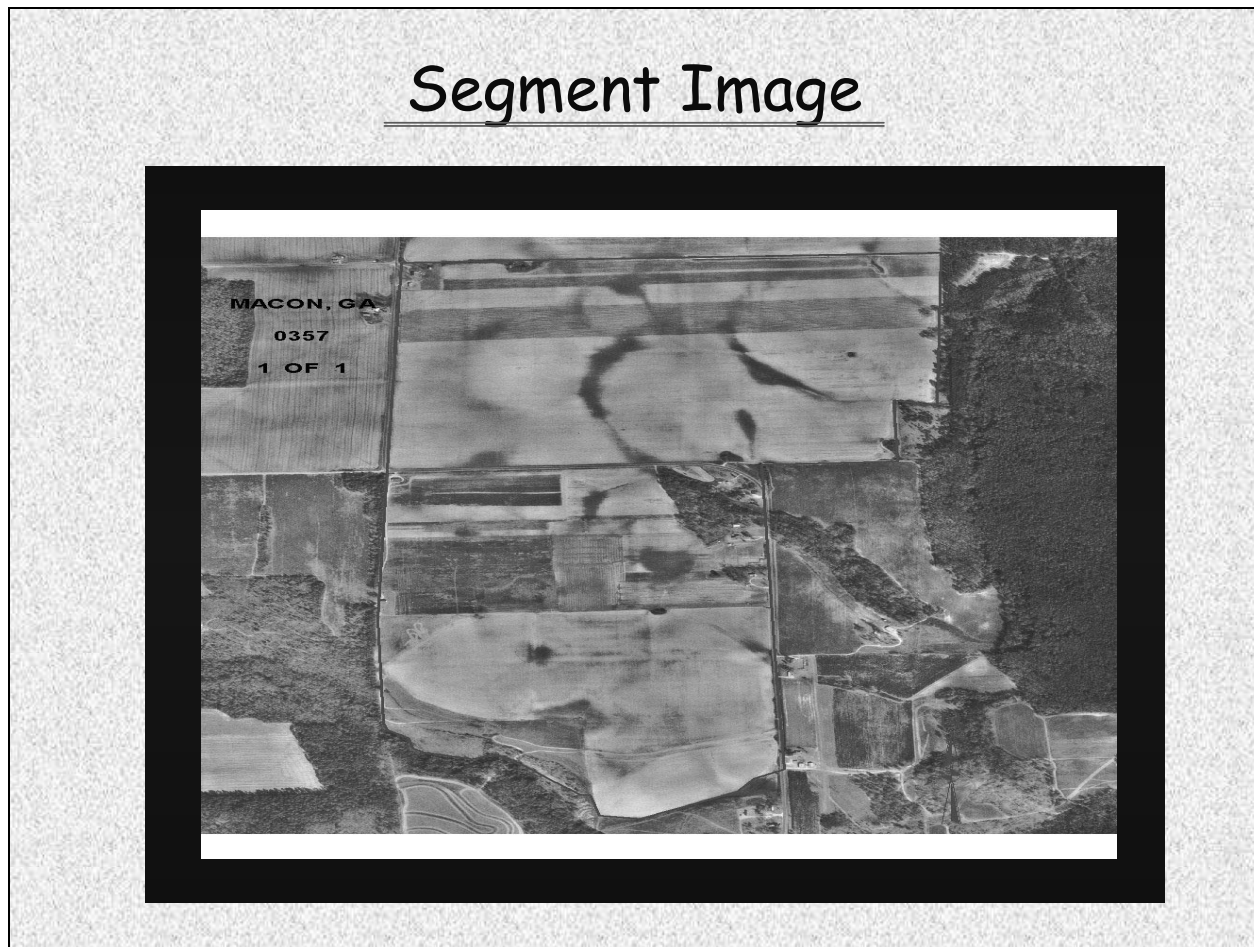
- **Satellite Imagery**
- **Raster Maps**
- **Vector Maps**

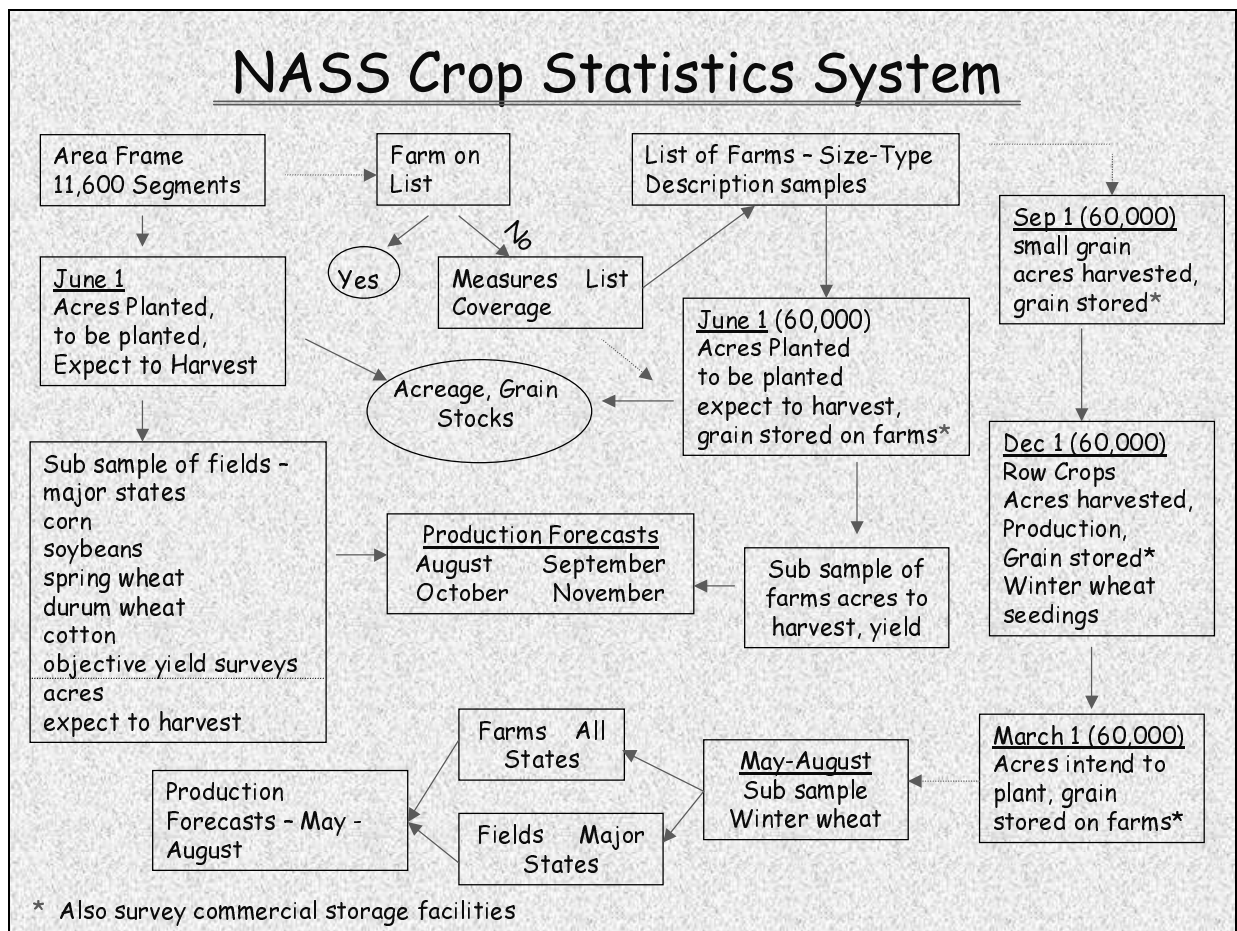
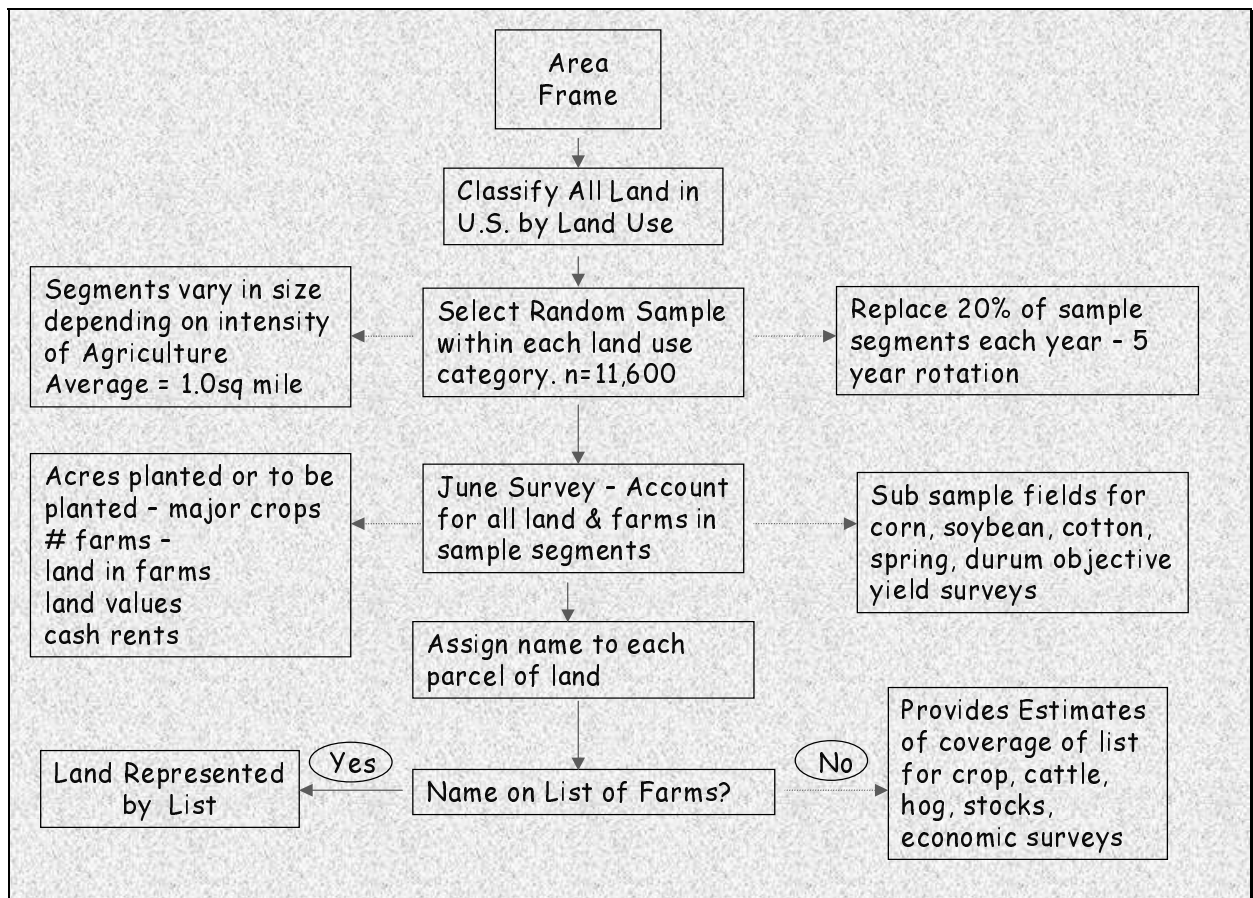


Slide 7



Slide 8







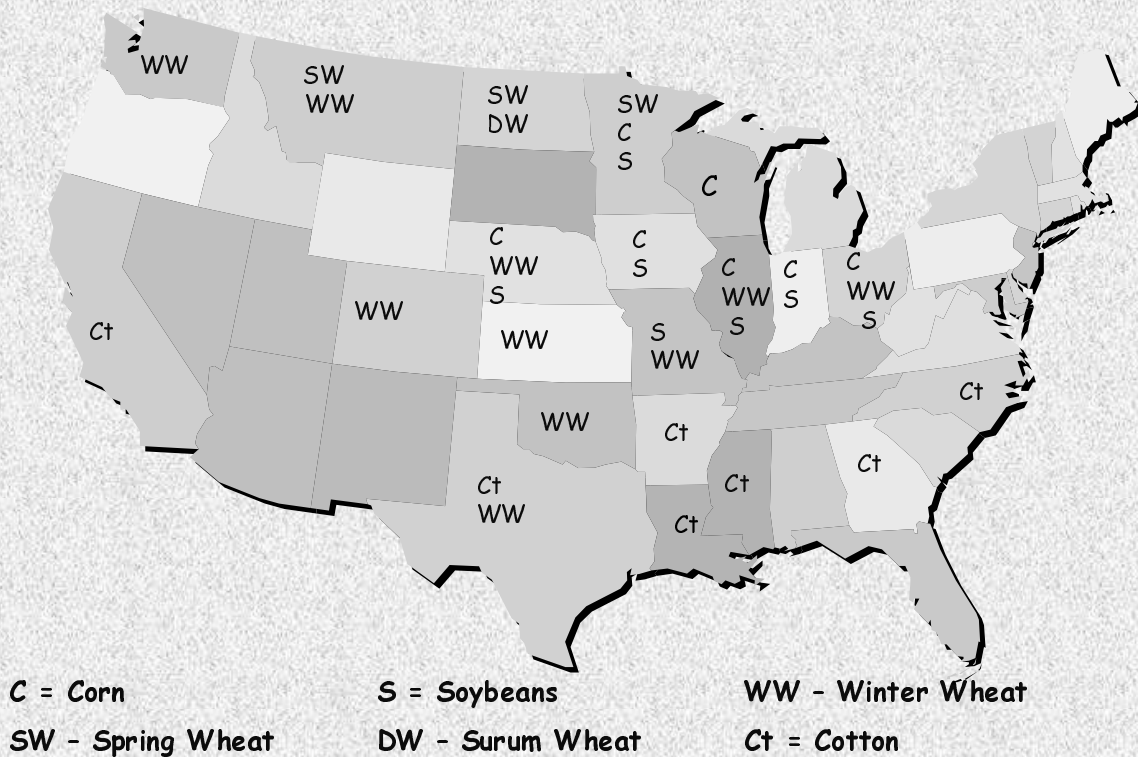
## Corn Objective Yield

Maturity during Survey Period	<u>Forecast Variables</u>		
	Number of Ears	Ear Weight	Harvest Loss
No Ears	Stalks	5-year average	5-year average
Pre-Blister	Stalks with Ears Number of Ears	5-year average	5-year average
Blister	Stalks with Ears Number of Ears	Kernel Row Length	5-year average
Milk	Stalks with Ears Number of Ears	Kernel Row Length	5-year average
Dough	Number of Ears with Kernels	Kernel Row Length	5-year average
Dent	Number of Ears with Kernels	Kernel Row Length/ grain weight/ear	5-year average
Mature	Number of Ears with Kernels	Grain Weight/Ear	5-year Average or Harvest Loss
Final	Number of Ears with Kernels	Grain Weight/Ear	Harvest Loss

## Soybeans

	<u>Forecast</u>	<u>Variables</u>	
	Number of Pods	Pod Weight	Harvest Loss
Pre-Bloom	# Plants #Lateral Branches	5-year Average	5-year Average
Blooming	# Lateral Branches # Blooms/dried flowers, pods # Pods with Beans	5-year Average	5-year Average
Pods Set	Pods with Beans	5-year Average	5-year Average
Mature	Pods with Beans	Weight per Pod	5-year Average or Harvest Loss
Final	Pods with Beans	Weight per Pod	Harvest Loss

## States in The Objective Yield Program



## Grower Survey

How many Acres Expect to Harvest? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the Expected Yield? \_\_\_\_\_



## Guiding Principles -

- Assume Normal Conditions -  
Remainder of Season - Do Not  
Forecast Weather
- Reference Period - 1<sup>st</sup> of Month - -  
Do Not Extrapolate Beyond Data  
Collection Period
- Everyone Gets Results at the Same  
Time

### 2002 - 2003 Marketing Year - Corn

	Mar 1 2002	Mar 30 2002	April 2002	May 2002	June 1 2002	June 30 2002	July 1 2002	Aug 1 2002	Sept 1 2002	Sept 30 2002	Oct 2002	Nov 2002	Dec 2002	Jan 2003
Acres intend to Plant	N													
Acres Expect to Harvest - Final Harvest				W	W	N		N	N					N
Yield - Forecast & Estimates				W	W		W	N	N		N	N		N
Production - Forecasts & Estimates				W	W		W	N	N		N	N		N
Beginning Stocks <u>1/</u>	W		W	W	W		W	W	W	N				
Current Stocks		N				N				N				N
Ending Stocks <u>2/</u>				W	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W

1/ 5-1-01 (W) 1<sup>st</sup> Projection

2/ 5-1-02 (W) 1<sup>st</sup> Projection

N= NASS

W = WAOB



## Commodity Balance Sheet

Beginning Stocks	_____	---	Survey - Farms - Commercial Facilities
Production	_____	---	Surveys - FSA
Acres			
Yield			
Imports	_____	---	Census
Total Supply			

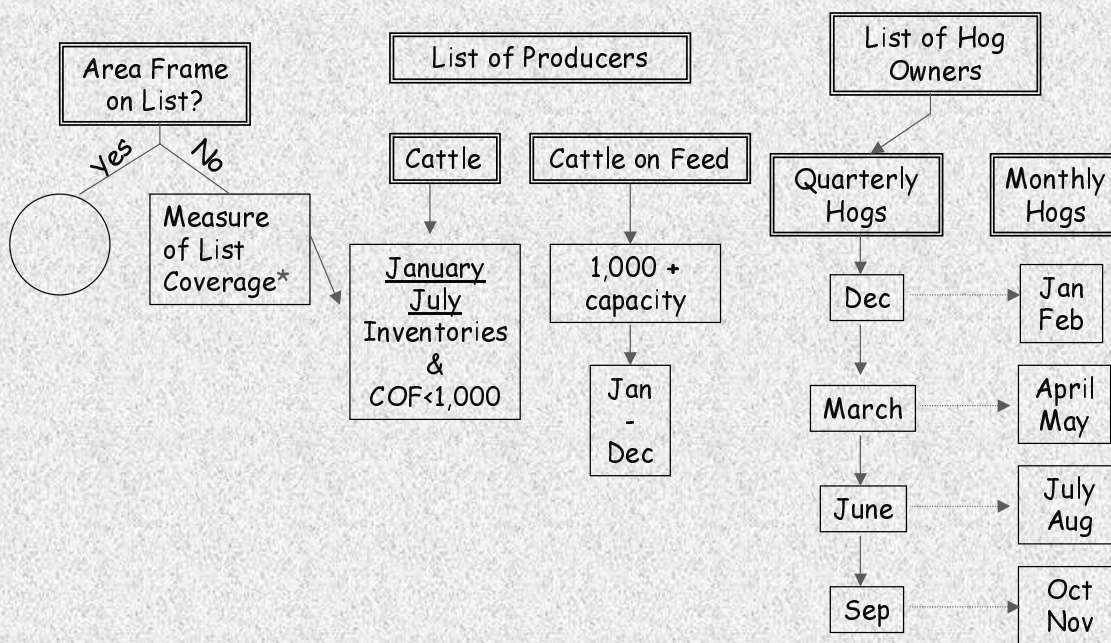
---

Exports	_____	---	Census
Industrial Use			
- Crush			
- Millings, etc	_____	---	Census - Trade
- etc			
Seed	_____	---	Derived
Total Measured Usage			

---

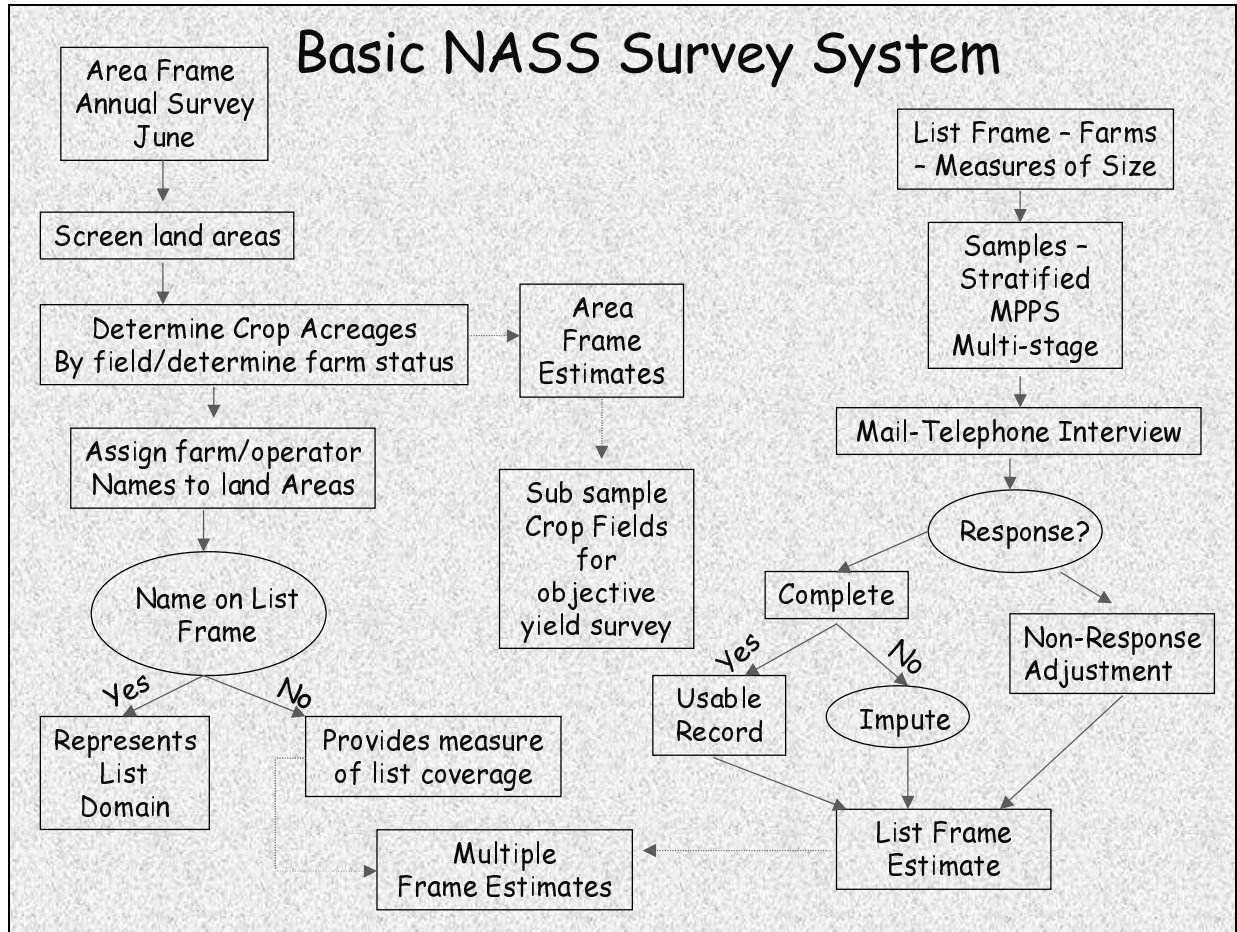
Balance Sheet carry over	_____	---	Supply minus Use
Survey Measured carry over	_____	---	
Residual - (feed & error unmeasured)	_____	---	

## Livestock Inventories



\* Also list coverage for Hog Surveys

# Basic NASS Survey System



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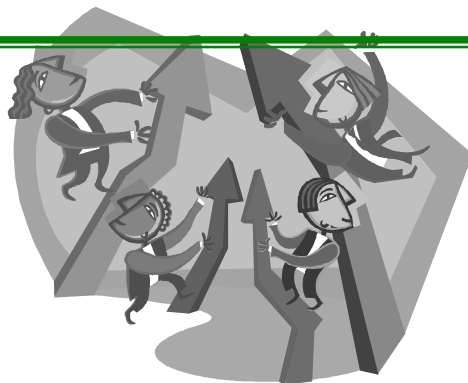
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**Summary of  
Questions, Answers, and Comments  
Chicago Data Users Meeting  
October 21, 2002**

**GENERAL QUESTIONS (Q), ANSWERS (R), and COMMENTS (C)**

- Q. The next day's report should note the revision on previous day's report. What is the AMS revision policy?
- R. Errors are corrected as soon as they are discovered, usually the same day by reissuing a corrected report. Errors found at a later date during the week are corrected on the weekly reports. If errors are discovered later than weekly, corrections are made in AMS databases for total numbers of movement or production. Significant errors may result in AMS republishing a report or a report series. Determination on republishing is made on a case-by-case basis.
- C. The government acknowledges having the wrong numbers, but still will not revise as in the case of the Milk Production in AZ.
- R. NASS is looking into the Arizona number, acquiring all the historical data and any other pertinent information before making a revision. The current published information since July 2002 is correct. The revisions will cover 2001 and the first half of 2002. The revisions will be published during the normal revision time period, which is in February. In the meantime, a preliminary revised milk production number for Arizona will be put in the footnote of the milk production table. This will provide data users with an idea of the magnitude of the revision, and allow for year-to-year comparison.
- Q. Will AMS ever get the matrices filled out on different trades of cattle prices?
- R. Because of the complexities of the many measurement factors which make up cattle matrices and the industry utilizes so many different variations in matrices, it would be very difficult to develop a matrix that would include all these criteria. As this type of transaction method matures, AMS will continue to pursue development of an overall industry matrix to assist production agriculture.
- Q. How do we capture revisions from ERS reports? We need the reports in the same format every time, for every state, especially AMS reports.
- R. AMS follows report protocols that are outlined in our reporter's handbook for format and content. AMS has tried to notify industry whenever changes are being made and continue to publish reports in parallel formats to ease the transition. AMS will continue to respond to concerns for format continuity.

ERS includes electronic "post-it" notes on their outlook newsletters to indicate substantive revisions involving data and text. Typos and other very minor changes are re-posted with no indication of the change. These are very minor items that in no way would affect a users' inferences or analysis.

Q. Why do you wait until July instead of May to put out the complete set of oilseed world balance sheets for the new marketing year for soybeans?

R. Two primary factors lead to the July release. First, we are highly dependant on the FAS staff located in countries around the world. These analysts typically cover many crops. Delaying release of the oilseed numbers until July helps spread their workload. Secondly, more information is available for rapeseed and for South American crops on the later schedule.

C&Q. Under Mandatory Price Reporting, only livestock packers responses are utilized in the reports. This eliminates any additional large scale outside sales. What is AMS doing to address this issue?

R. AMS will begin reporting feedlot sales of slaughter steers and heifers in conjunction with mandatory reporting by packers. Voluntary reporting will include the major trading areas and begin with the Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Nebraska areas.

Q. Is NASS discontinuing 7-State Cattle on Feed report?

R. No. NASS will be making a format change in the COF report in February 2003. NASS moved to 1000+ U.S. Cattle on Feed report in 1996 because we felt that that was a better representation of the cattle on feed number. The report will continue to carry each of the seven historical States within the 1000+ COF table. Data users will need to add the seven States to obtain the historical 7-State total.

Q. Is the monthly Hog & Pig report going to continue?

R. Under law NASS is required to collect data and publish a monthly hogs & pigs report until October 2004. NASS has experienced a decline in response rates and has been told by data users that the monthly report is not being used to make marketing decisions. NASS has established a panel to review the monthly survey. Upon completion of the review the outcome will be presented to the Secretary of Agriculture. If the outcome is to stop the monthly program, NASS would do so at that time.

C&Q. The Monthly Hog & Pig report makes no revisions to females bred. NASS makes revision to pig crop based on slaughter, and revises farrowings to match pig crop. Why don't you make revisions to females bred?

R. NASS does revise the females bred. Hog revisions are based mainly on administrative data. NASS has very little administrative data for females bred. A review of the

latest quarterly hogs and pigs report shows revisions to the number of females bred during the past few months.

C. I'd like to continue receiving a hardcopy of yearbooks for students. Electronic copies are continuously updated and are good, but it's too hard always trying to show students where to find the data.

R. You will continue to receive hard copy of the yearbooks.

Q. CattleFax data differs from USDA's COF report. Why is that? Why is there a difference between regions in the lighter weight group placements?

R. In the past, CattleFax and NASS numbers have been similar. CattleFax surveys the larger feedlots, whereas NASS does a census of all 1000+ COF. When actions of September 11, 2001 took place the larger feedlots reacted quicker in cutting back on the number of animals they placed. The smaller lots did not react as quickly. Therefore, CattleFax showed a larger percentage increase over last year then NASS.

The COF report showed lighter animals being placed in Nebraska and Kansas. These States moved animals earlier in the year to the Midwest and East. They don't have the heavier animals to place. In Texas, where conditions are fairly good, heavier animals were being placed. We would expect some of these to be moved out of the feedlot and onto wheat pasture if conditions remain good. These cattle would then be put back into the feedlots at a later point in time.

Q. Why is there is a difference in export numbers between FAS and ERS? Both agencies should have same categories, see Appendix Table 18 in the ERS publication. FAS data are comprehensive by region, covering the whole world. For ERS, this is a catchall figure.

Joy Harwood will follow-up with Ed Allen, the international grains analyst, who constructs this table. She will put him in touch with the person asking this question and will follow-up if additional resolution is needed.

Q. Census corn exports are larger than inspections. Soybean inspections are larger than Census soybeans. Is there any way to get more data on the amount of grains moving across the borders to Canada in the inspection data?

R. WAOB Response: Grain shipped overland to Canada and Mexico do not have to be inspected for export. With the surge in demand for corn and soybeans, because of the drought in Canada, Census is showing a large increase in U.S. export of corn and soybeans to Canada. Inspections only list shipments to Canada for transshipment to other countries. To get a better assessment of potential monthly Census exports, you need to add monthly exports to Canada from FAS's Export Sales report to the inspection data. I doubt that the exporters to Canada are going to voluntarily incur

the cost of inspection so that trade analysts can get inspection numbers that are nearer Census.

Census Response: Because of the data exchange program between Census and Statistics Canada, U.S. exports are based on Canadian imports. Misreporting may be a possible reason for the data discrepancies. Census will follow-up and investigate any reasonable questions data users may have.

Q What is the revision policy of Census?

R. Census revisions are made annually and thus published the following year. Census calls this their 13<sup>th</sup> Month Processing. For example, Census asks for all 2002 data revisions by March 2003, and releases them June 2003.

Q. USDA ERS published a report on breast-feeding. With relation to staff and resources, how does this relate to Agriculture?

R. ERS has three program divisions: Market and Trade Economics, where most of the commodity- and trade-related work is done; Resource Economics, which focuses on conservation and resource issues; and Food and Rural Economics, which focuses on rural America, food, nutrition, and obesity issues. Congress has appropriated substantial funds in recent years for ERS in the Food and Rural Economics Division to conduct a "food and nutrition research" program. The work on breast-feeding falls within this mandate.

Q. With higher stocks for corn and wheat, what is the policy on attaché data from China and when will we have better data?

R. USDA is working hard to acquire Chinese grain stocks data. Preliminary estimates provided by the attaché are helpful but considered preliminary. Washington based analysts are working with the attaché in Beijing and with Chinese counterparts on this issue. To date, China has had difficulty surveying and publishing "official" estimates.

However, using funding provided by the Emerging Markets Program, USDA and China are engaged in a continuous dialogue on this issue. This has resulted in China releasing subsequently more information being released on this subject than in the past. By working with china to improve china's reporting system, USDA's prospects for getting more accurate "official" data have been subsequently improved.

Q. How do we deal with the attaché report, especially when it is an unofficial USDA report?

R. We do not have to adopt the attaché report; it is just a number for the public to view.

C. Need to put more resources and efforts into the weekly crop condition program or stop putting out a report. Also, I do not believe condition ratings are correlated to

final Yields for soybeans. I noticed that NASS did not bring a chart for soybeans for last year.

R. NASS probably will not be able to put more resources into this report.

World Board uses the crop condition in three or four different ways. WAOB uses the condition ratings along with other data in order to prepare WAOB projections before NASS reports yield and production.

C. Lack of training is a problem with reporters for crop weather.

R. State staff prepare training packages for reporters and visit reporters when conducting field travel. NASS wants reporters to be consistent.

Q. AMS carcass weights are reported to 1/100th of pound. Can we get NASS weights that precise? (Currently rounded to 1 pound).

R. AMS reports come from mandatory data for cattle packers with 125,000 or more annual average slaughtered. NASS publishes data that are reported by inspectors. The primary purpose of the inspectors or veterinarians is not to count the species or weight them. NASS can only publish the data as precise as they are collected. If more resources were available, more precise data collection might be obtainable.

C. Instead of spending extra money on monthly Hog & Pig report, use money to improve on expanded collected prices.

C. NASS will be releasing Poultry and Livestock slaughter release at 8:30 a.m. due to the number of reports going out at 3 p.m. on Fridays. This was done at the request of data users.

Q. Could NASS release the Crop Progress report out at 8:30 a.m. on Monday?

R. This is not possible because of the process that it takes to generate the reports. Statisticians begin working on the Report in the state offices Monday morning. Often times, additional responses from reporters are received Monday morning. State summaries are sent to headquarters by 1:00 p.m., local time. National analysis is conducted and the report finalized by 4:00 p.m.

Q. Can ERS publish poultry data into the three sectors: eggs, broilers, and turkeys?

R. The "poultry" category includes all poultry prices because the data do not allow for independent publishing by category. NASS is hoping to increase its sample size so that this request can be met.

Q. Is there any value of publishing farm value for poultry production? It really overstates the actual farmer value.



- R. This information is used in USDA Farm Income accounts. It may not fairly represent returns to individual contractors. However, the returns to agriculture are represented in the Farm Income accounts.
- Q. European Union 15 detail is not included in a report. Is there anywhere to get the EU15's data?
- R. The final correction of EU 15 data is still available as historical data.
- Q. Who is responsible for macroeconomic analysis?
- R. ERS has a 3-person macroeconomics group, including Matt Shane (international issues and data), Paul Sundell (domestic financial issues), and Dave Torgerson (employment, inflation, other domestic topics). We recently posted a briefing, "Macroeconomics and Agriculture" on our website and have an Exchange Rate Data Page (updated monthly) and an International Macroeconomic Data Page (updated twice yearly). ERS's three macroeconomists work closely with Dave Stallings, a macroeconomist at the World Agricultural Outlook Board.
- Q. Is there any potential of having revisions to Chinese data?
- R. Yes, if the ongoing interagency group determines that a change in stocks is needed.
- Q. Is there anything showing that American agriculture will start regaining its world share?
- R. U.S. does have some potential in technology that might help us gain on cost of production. However, the U.S. will have to compete very hard to maintain a global share of world production.
- Q. U.S. numbers for corn & soybeans as a percent of World numbers are decreasing. What does this mean for U.S. farmers?
- R. Need to look at baseline, not sure how this will impact U.S. farmers.

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# 2002 Data Users Meeting

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